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Trends in level of evidence in Rhinology research

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Background: Evidence-based medicine is an integral part of clinical research and practice. The purpose of this study was to assess the trends in the level of evidence in leading Rhinology journals in recent years.

Methods: All scientific articles within the field of Rhinology published in The Laryngoscope, Rhinology, American Journal of Rhinology and Allergy, Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery, and Journal of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery from 2010, 2014, and 2018 were rated for level of evidence. The number of authors, patient age, study type, sample size, and presence of p-values were also noted.

Results: Of 998 articles reviewed, 71.1% were clinical with 58.3% being treatment studies. Overall, there was an increase in the average level of evidence of articles published from 2010 to 2018. However, the number of articles containing level 1 or 2 evidence remains low. Conclusions: With the increased demand for evidence-based medicine, Rhinology literature has seen an overall increase in the quantity of higher-level evidence research published. However, articles representing level 1 and 2 evidence remain rare. The authors hope that this information may help encourage further high-quality research in Rhinology.

Biography

Alex Brannan is a third-year resident in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada. Research interests include quality improvement in patient care and hospital resource utilization and in the domains of head and neck and Rhinologic surgery.

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