“Acta Cirúrgica Brasileira” is the only Latin-American Journal in the area of experimental surgery. It has been published, without interruption, since 1986. It is the Official Journal of the Brazilian Society for the Development of Research in Surgery [Sociedade Brasileira para o Desenvolvimento da Pesquisa em Cirurgia-SOBRADPEC].

It is the only continuously published journal in English language solely devoted to experimental/investigative surgery in Latin America. The Editorial Board considers only papers judged to offer significant contributions to surgical research.

The articles of the Acta Cirúrgica Brasileira, which were cited by journals indexed in the Web of Science, portray 87% of the subjects concerning to surgery, gastroenterology / hepatology, pharmacology / pharmacy, veterinary science, biology, transplantation, immunology, medical/research and experimental, and tropical medicine.

Geographic representation of research in surgery can be found in the United States (Journal of Surgical Research - impact factor = 2.038 and total citations = 5,913 and Journal of Investigative Surgery - impact factor = 1.107 and total citations = 417) and in Europe (European Surgical Research - impact factor = 0.684 and total citations = 417). Acta Cirúrgica Brasileira has joined these journals as representative of Latin America.

Research in Surgery is a small field and do not generate as many citations as do larger fields, as clinical surgery. The impact factor is different comparing both areas. But it is important to emphasize that Acta Cirúrgica Brasileira has been systematically cited on WoS indexed journals since the year 1992, reaching a total of 189 citations. Meanwhile, 77% of the total citations occurred in the period 2003-2008. Brazilian authors were responsible for 69% of the citations, followed by authors from the USA (11%), Germany (5%), Turkey (5%), England (3%), Japan (2%), Peoples R China (2%), Spain (2%), Austria (1%), Canada (1%), and Italy (1%). Looking at Scopus databases, we found 98 citations from a total of 337 published articles in the last three years.

Full texts are available from URL: http://www.scielo.br/acb, since 1997, in an open free access environment. Impact factor has been increasing progressively at SciELO databases (reaching an Impact factor=0.1784 (2005), 0.1527 (2006) and 0.1940 (2007)).

On behalf of the Directing Board of the Brazilian Society for Development of Research in Surgery and the Editorial Committee of Acta Cirúrgica Brasileira we are enthusiastic with this improvement and would like to thank our authors for the citations in WoS indexed journals.