

The scientific production of J Vasc Bras: achievements and challenges

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ABSTRACT

Background: As a successor of Cirurgia Vascular e Angiologia, the Brazilian Vascular Journal (J Vasc Bras) is the official scientific organ of Sociedade Brasileira de Angiologia e Cirurgia Vascular (SBACV) and has been making progress and achievements throughout the years. However, these achievements lead to a full commitment able to maintain a high quality standard and imply continuous challenges, not only to achieve new conquests, but also to sustain them.

Objective: To critically evaluate all J Vasc Bras publications in printed and/or electronic versions between 2002 and 2007.

Methods: It is a systematic review of all J Vasc Bras publications, both printed and electronic, released in the aforementioned period. The papers were subdivided into 12 categories and evaluated considering five aspects: a) type of publication; b) large thematic area; c) level of scientific evidence; d) references; e) country of origin of references. SPSS™ version 13.0 and Microsoft Excel™ were used for statistical analysis. There is no conflict of interest in this study.

Results: A total of 26 issues and nearly 400 manuscripts were evaluated, regarding all levels of scientific evidence, comprehending editorials, original and review articles, consensus and/or scientific forums, case reports, letters to the editor and final paper abstracts. The texts dealt with all large thematic areas of angiology and vascular surgery, besides bioethics, sociology, philosophy and technological innovations. However, despite a progressive paradigm shift, Brazilian authors are still far from ideal with regard to appreciation of the Brazilian scientific production, besides that of J Vasc Bras. This behavior needs to be reconsidered.

Conclusion: Despite being young, J Vasc Bras has been overcoming obstacles and playing its role, both as the official scientific organ of SBACV and as a scientific journal. Its achievements allow us to claim that it is in the right path, but there are still challenges to be overcome, especially related to national authors, who doubtlessly have been and will always be part of all conquests. More than *stimulating*, the word of command is *growing*, but growing together.

Keywords: Publication, quality, scientific evidence.

RESUMO

Contexto: Sucessor da revista Cirurgia Vascular e Angiologia, o Jornal Vascular Brasileiro (J Vasc Bras) é o órgão científico oficial da Sociedade Brasileira de Angiologia e Cirurgia Vascular (SBACV) e vem, ao longo dos anos, progredindo e conquistando importantes metas. No entanto, tais conquistas remetem ao comprometimento ininterrupto capaz de manter um alto padrão de qualidade e implicam constantes desafios, não apenas para que novas conquistas aconteçam, mas também para que o mesmo se perpetue.

Objetivo: Avaliar criticamente todas as publicações do J Vasc Bras nas versões impressas e/ou eletrônicas entre os anos de 2002 a 2007.

Método: Trata-se de uma revisão sistemática sobre todas as publicações do J Vasc Bras, tanto impressas quanto eletrônicas, ocorridas no referido período. Os manuscritos foram subdivididos em 12 categorias e analisados em cinco aspectos, a saber: a) tipos de publicações; b) grandes áreas temáticas; c) níveis de evidências científicas; d) citações bibliográficas; e) países de origens das citações bibliográficas. Usaram-se os programas estatísticos SPSS[®], versão 13.0 e Microsoft Excel[®] 2003 para as análises estatísticas. Não há conflito de interesse neste estudo.

Resultados: Foram avaliadas 26 edições e quase 400 manuscritos que se enquadraram em todos os níveis de evidências científicas, abrangendo desde editoriais, artigos originais, de revisão, consensos e/ou fóruns científicos e relatos de casos até cartas ao editor e resumos de trabalhos de conclusão. Os textos abordaram todas as grandes áreas temáticas da angiologia e cirurgia vascular, além da bioética, sociologia, filosofia e inovação tecnológica. No entanto, e apesar de uma paulatina mudança de paradigma, percebeu-se que os autores nacionais ainda deixam a desejar no que diz respeito à valorização da produção científica nacional e à do próprio J Vasc Bras, atitude que necessita ser repensada.

Conclusão: Apesar de jovem, o J Vasc Bras vem galgando obstáculos e cumprindo seu papel, seja como órgão oficial da SBACV, seja como revista científica. Suas conquistas permitem deduzir que o mesmo está no caminho certo; entretanto, ainda existem desafios a vencer, particularmente em relação aos próprios autores nacionais, os quais, sem dúvida, foram e sempre serão parte de todas as conquistas. Mais do que estimular, a palavra de ordem é crescer, e de forma conjunta.

Palavras-chave: Publicação, qualidade, evidências científicas.

Introduction

Successor of Cirurgia Vascular e Angiologia (Cir Vasc & Ang) and official scientific publication of Sociedade Brasileira de Angiologia e Cirurgia Vascular (SBACV), the Brazilian Vascular Journal, whose initial abbreviation was J Vasc Br, and J Vasc Bras since June 2006, had its first issue printed in June 2002, with 5,000 copies distributed across Brazil, as a result of demands of a new era.¹ According to the current SBACV Statute and Internal Regulation, approved in September 2005 and July 2006, respectively, J Vasc Bras objectives are as follows (clause 161): a) publish scientific with interest for the medical community, properly documented and reviewed by specialists; b) provide angiologists and vascular surgeons continuous education and information, supported by clinical and laboratory investigations; c) disclosure information about the development of multiple fields in angiology, vascular surgery and respective areas, both at a national and international level, including to specialists in similar areas; d) control disclosure of conflict of interest by authors, to ensure they are published; e) support, multiply and report SBACV medical policy independently, objectively and having proper

editorial responsibility.

Since then, SBACV, in a continuous and pleasant investment, has been consolidating this vehicle of scientific publication year after year,² nationally recognized and having large international projections in a very close future. Over the past 5 years, due to the effort made by its editors, reviewers, authors and sponsors' trust, several achievements stood out, such as the international standard serial number (ISSN), ensuring domain of publication titles; creation of its English version, which also has ISSN; creation of an electronic journal, making it global;² maintenance of its indexation at Latin American and Caribbean Literature on the Health Sciences (LILACS);^{3,4} and finally, indexation at *Scientific Electronic Library Online* (SciELO).⁵

Such achievements are a result of uninterrupted commitment to maintain *J Vasc Bras* at a high quality standard, since few journals nowadays manage to perpetuate and progress,¹ especially those from countries outside the USA-Europe-Japan axis. However, an essential issue for maintaining the quality of any journal lies in the fact that it should be published with quality and periodicity, which are goals systematically aimed by the SBACV board and by the journal's editorial board.⁶⁻⁸

On the other hand, scientific progress and growth of *J Vasc Bras* equally imply major challenges and adaptations.⁹ Similarly to a human being, the "stretching" stage is over, and SBACV's official scientific publication needs actions able to increase its consistency, thus creating a healthy and perennial adult. It is known that the world scientific production grows at an incredible pace, whether from the perspective of quantity or quality. It would be considered an utopia and even foolishness to ask Brazilian authors to put the international literature aside when writing their manuscripts. However, despite various achievements, there are still large challenges to be overcome. Using solid bases and for the first time, this study demonstrates that we often do not register our production, which should not occur, since it has scientific and technical quality, even not reliably reflecting our potential.⁹ Added to that is the fact that this article can serve as a quick, objective and especially consistent guide for future authors, not only for *J Vasc Bras*, but also for everyone intending to approach vascular diseases under different perspectives.

Objectives

The general objective of this study is to critically evaluate all *J Vasc Bras* publications in printed and/or electronic versions from 2002 through 2007.

The following can be considered as specific objectives:

- Describing and quantifying all types of manuscripts, according to year and main author's nationality.
- Classifying the level of scientific evidence of published manuscripts, according to El Dib's classification, published in *J Vasc Bras* 2007;6(1): 1-4.
- Describing, analyzing and stratifying the references of all eligible manuscripts, according to author's nationality, scientific source and country of origin.
- Reflecting on *J Vasc Bras* scientific production, critically identifying correlated positive and negative aspects.
- Fostering critical thinking in current and future *J Vasc Bras* authors and reviewers.
- Valuing the scientific production of *J Vasc Bras* and in Brazil.
- Contributing to future enrichment of *J Vasc Bras*, both quantitatively and qualitatively.

-Serving as an objective and consistent guide of J Vasc Bras scientific production, helping future authors.

Method

Study model

It is a systematic review of all J Vasc Bras publications from 2002 through 2007, including printed and/or electronic versions available at: <http://jvascbr.com.br/index.htm>, accessed on January 20, 2008, according to proposed objectives.

Inclusion criteria

All types of manuscripts present in the aforementioned versions were evaluated, including those published in supplements, which were grouped into the following categories: a) editorial; b) original article; c) review article; d) forums-symposiums-guidelines; e) international guidelines; f) previous note; g) abstract of final papers; h) book review; i) scientific-technological innovation; j) letter to the editor; k) case report or series; l) diagnostic or therapeutic challenge.

Exclusion criteria

The following manuscripts were excluded: a) erratum; b) correct citation; c) new books; d) acknowledgement; e) events; f) keyword index; g) publication guidelines and instructions for authors; h) sales advertising; i) congress proceedings.

Assessed variables

To meet proposed objectives, manuscripts considered eligible for the study were analyzed according to the following aspects: a) type of publication; b) large thematic area; c) level of scientific evidence; d) number of references; e) country of origin of references. These items were also subdivided according to applicability as to: a) year of publication; b) authors' nationality; c) country of origin.

Analyses and presentation of results

Obtained data were described and submitted to quantitative analyses, and results are pertinently presented. Statistical software SPSS™ version 13.0 and Microsoft Excel™ 2003 were used, and $p \leq 0.05$ was used for statistical significance to reject null hypothesis.

Bioethical aspects

Critical analyses were performed with due parsimony, to avoid embarrassment and/or ethical transgressions. Similarly, all nominal citations are properly registered, in full conformity, in the references.

Conflict of interest

There is no type of attitude by the authors that can represent conflict of interest. Also, there is no manipulation, intentional and/or willful, to change or omit presented data.

Results

In the period mentioned above, a total of 378 manuscripts in 26 issues were evaluated, excluding only the Proceedings of Brazilian Congresses of Angiology and Vascular Surgery, comprehending editorials, original and review articles, consensus and/or scientific forums and case reports. Highlight should also be given to articles divided into two parts that "challenge" the reader to make a decision and the much important scientific and technological innovations ([Table 1](#)).

Table 1 - Types of publications of J Vasc Bras, according to year, from 2002 through 2007

Year/Type of article	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Total (n)	Total* (%)
Editorial	8	7	7	11	8	13	54	14,3
Original article	12	9	28	37	27	30	143	37,8
Review article	3	10	6	6	2	8	35	9,3
Forums-symposiums-guidelines	1	3	3	7	0	0	14	3,7
International guidelines	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0,3
Previous note	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0,3
Abstract of final papers	0	0	0	2	2	4	8	2,1
Book review	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0,5
Scientific and technological innovation	2	3	1	1	0	0	7	1,9
Letter to the editor	0	0	1	1	2	2	6	1,6
Case report or series	3	8	20	15	20	30	96	25,4
Diagnostic or therapeutic challenge	0	6	3	1	1	0	11	2,9
General total	30	47	69	81	62	89	378	100%

* Values were rounded to one decimal place.

The sum of all large thematic areas and subareas present in varied forms of publications was higher than 600, which were all in agreement with specialty areas and in consonance with the experienced period, such as for instance endovascular procedures. Also, constant and progressive presence of approaches on ethics, teaching and research is stressed ([Table 2](#)).

Table 2 - Main thematic areas present in *J Vasc Bras* publications, in alphabetical order and according to year, from 2002 through 2007

Year/thematic area	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Total (n)	Total* (%)
Vascular accesses/chronic renal insufficiency	0	0	1	2	3	2	8	1,2
Arterial aneurysms	6	5	7	12	11	10	51	7,9
Angiology/vascular surgery	1	4	3	5	6	21	40	6,2
Diabetes mellitus	0	6	1	2	1	1	11	1,7
Atherosclerotic disease/peripheral vascular insufficiency	5	5	11	8	3	9	41	6,4
Carotid disease	0	3	4	4	6	5	22	3,1
Lymphatic disease	0	1	5	6	1	2	15	2,3
Varicose disease/chronic venous insufficiency/ phlebology	2	3	7	7	8	11	38	5,9
Emergence and vascular trauma	2	11	13	8	9	10	53	8,3
Teaching and research in specialty	6	5	12	19	12	24	78	12,1
Sclerotherapy	0	0	1	1	2	0	4	0,6
Ischemia and reperfusion phenomena	1	2	2	1	0	1	7	1,1
Renovascular hypertension	0	1	1	3	0	0	5	0,8
Technical and scientific innovations and previous note	3	1	0	3	0	5	12	1,9
Diagnostic methods (all)	5	5	9	19	4	8	50	7,8
Endovascular methods – minimally invasive – Laser	2	3	5	7	18	13	48	7,5
Usual and alternative therapeutic methods	7	12	12	13	14	17	75	11,7
Health policies – deontology and medical sociology	2	13	6	3	2	6	32	5,0
Systematic review	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0,2
Peripheral compartmental syndrome and thoracic-cervical outlet syndrome	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0,3
Thrombosis, pulmonary thromboembolism – superior vena cava syndrome	6	1	1	10	6	4	28	4,4
Thrombophilias	0	1	4	0	1	0	6	0,9
Vasculitis – arteriovenous malformation – cystic diseases	1	2	2	2	2	6	15	2,3
General total	49	85	109	135	109	155	642	100%

* Values were rounded to one decimal place.

National forums, symposiums, guidelines, clinical guidelines and international *guidelines* were also published, as can be seen in [Table 3](#).

Table 3 - Forums, *guidelines* and norms published in J Vasc Bras issues, according to year and type of author, from 2002 through 2007

Year/type of publication	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
National author	National forum: Endovascular surgery	Symposiums a) Diabetic foot b) Medicine and law c) Medical teaching	Lymphology Symposium	Guidelines a) POAD and IC b) Chronic venous disease; CVI ulcer; lymphedema Clinical guidelines: deep venous thrombosis	-	-
Foreign author	<i>Guidelines for the prevention of venous thromboembolism</i>	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	3	1	3	0	0

CVI = chronic venous insufficiency; IC = intermittent claudication; POAD = peripheral occlusive arterial disease.

Table 4 shows that, according to El Dib's classification (2007), J Vasc Bras published articles of a good scientific level, especially by national authors. There was, however, absolute prevalence of publications that can be classified as case reports, abstracts of final papers, whether clinical and/or experimental, and specialist opinions.

Table 4 - Classification of all J Vasc Bras publications, according to level of scientific evidence and type of author, from 2002 through 2007

Type of author/study model	National author	Foreign author	General total
Level I – Systematic reviews with or without meta-analysis	12	2	14
Level II – Large clinical trials and cohort studies on risk factors	23	2	25
Level III – Clinical trials (< 1,000 cases)	11	2	13
Level IV – Cohort studies	57	4	61
Level V – Case-control studies	15	0	15
Level VI – Case series	21	1	22
Level VII – Case reports	94	1	95
Level VIII – Specialist opinions, forums, animal and <i>In vitro</i> research	125	5	130
General total (n)	358	17	375
Percentage	95,47%	4,53%	100

According to El Dib.¹⁰

Tables 5 and 6 have details regarding the references of articles published in all issues, according to authors' nationality, and Table 7 identifies the main countries of origin of these references.

Table 5 - Number of references in all J Vasc Bras publications, according to Brazilian author, from 2002 through 2007

Author/year	J Vasc Bras/or Cir Vasc & Ang	Rev Ang Cir Vasc and/or other Brazilian Journals	International journals	Brazilian books or final papers	International books or final papers	Internet	Total
2002*	16	13	579	25	18	0	651
2003	21	30	881	94	94	11	1.131
2004	27	44	1.093	75	76	8	1.323
2005†	70	67	1.432	94	41	20	1.724
2006	60	30	949	49	41	11	1.140
2007	51	82	1.005	99	72	13	1.322
Total (n)	245	266	5.939	436	342	63	7.291
Percentage	3,36	3,65	81,46	5,98	4,69	0,86	100

Final papers = monographs, master's theses and/or doctorate dissertations.

* Three published issues.

† Three supplements included.

Table 6 - Number of references in all J Vasc Bras publications, according to foreign author, from 2002 through 2007

Author/year	J Vasc Bras/or Cir Vasc & Ang	Rev Ang Cir Vasc and/or other Brazilian Journals	International journals	Brazilian books or final papers	International books or final papers	Internet	Total
2002*	0	0	514	0	25	0	539
2003	0	0	73	0	4	0	77
2004	0	2	103	1	7	0	113
2005**	2	0	137	0	1	0	140
2006	0	1	57	0	6	0	64
2007	2	0	99	0	14	2	117
Total (n)	4	3	983	1	57	2	1.050
Percentage	0,38	0,29	93,62	0,1	5,43	0,19	100

Final papers = monographs, master's theses and/or doctorate dissertations.

* Three published issues.

† Three supplements included.

Table 7 - Countries of origin of articles cited in the references of all J Vasc Bras publications, according to approximate order of frequency, from 2002 through 2007, except for electronic citations

1 – USA	10 – Chile	19 – India	28 – Cuba	37 – Turkey
2 – Brazil	11 – Argentina	20 – Netherlands	29 – Colombia	38 – Malaysia
3 – England	12 – Australia	21 – South Africa	30 – Panama	39 – Nigeria
4 – Italy	13 – New Zealand	22 – Israel	31 – Saudi Arabia	40 – Korea
5 – France	14 – Russia	23 – Poland	32 – Mexico	
6 – Germany	15 – Spain	24 – Austria	33 – Tunisia	
7 – Canada	16 – China	25 – Denmark	34 – Croatia	
8 – Japan	17 – Belgium	26 – Norway	35 – Poland	
9 – Portugal	18 – Scotland	27 – Sweden	36 – Hawaii	

Finally, statistical analysis of references showed that Brazilian authors significantly cite more references from foreign journals than non-Brazilian authors, who in turn tend to cite the scientific production published in their respective countries ($p = 0.004$). However, this fact did not occur in relation to citations of text books and/or final papers ($p = 0.17$), as can be seen in [Table 8](#).

Table 8 - Comparative analysis of international references, according to type of author and type of citation

	National author	Foreign author	p^*
International journal 2002-2007	5.939	983	$p = 0.004$
International books and final papers 2002-2007	342	57	$p = 0.17$

*Paired t test (95% confidence interval).

Discussion

The study model proved to be compatible with proposed objectives and allowed inference of important observations, besides corroborating the current moment experienced by SBACV and J Vasc Bras. Despite the subdivision of manuscripts published in large thematic areas and subareas being subjective, since most of the times there are different interpretations in the same article, this item had as its main goal to serve as reference of the main issues approached by the journal. This will certainly facilitate future authors interested in specialty themes and also contribute to find articles published in J Vasc Bras that can be cited in their works.

Classification of works in evidence levels clearly demonstrated that the Brazilian production has scientific quality. Insertion in different reference columns between Cirurgia Vascular & Angiologia/Jornal Vascular Brasileiro and Revista de Angiologia e Cirurgia Vascular/other National Journals is merely due to the fact that J Vasc Bras is actually a continuation of Cir Vasc & Ang; however, both have been traditionally contributing to our specialty and to SBACV itself.

It is known that, to perpetuate a scientific journal, dynamic measures that must be alert to constant evolution of the times are necessary. The fast growth of J Vasc Bras allowed, in only 4 years, this young journal to be indexed in SciELO and, consequently, classified as Qualis A according to the national category of publication.^{5,11} That context shows the extreme importance of advertising the journal in scientific means,¹¹ which in turn can arouse interest in the scientific community, increasing encouragement to reading the journal and interest in publishing in it, providing a positive mechanism

for SBACV, for J Vasc Bras and for authors/institutions. However, due to a request by SciELO, since number 2 of volume 5, in 2006, citations of Jornal Vascular Brasileiro should be J Vasc Bras, and not J Vasc Br,¹¹ which explains two types of citations present in the references of this article, but that concern the same journal.

It is also important to perform a correct citation of keywords or descriptors, since they contribute to spreading a given specialty.¹² This is a topic that should obligatorily deserve more attention by the journal's authors, especially when the article is translated into English, since different descriptors for homogenous issues can be found. Serial introduction of a keyword index, per year, as has been recently done,¹³ combined with the detailed work performed by J Vasc Bras reviewers and editor,¹¹ are extremely positive measures and should be encouraged.

National authors have doubtlessly been publishing articles with increasing scientific quality. Similarly, J Vasc Bras has published articles based on the current international literature from dozens of countries, which clearly reflects the domain of Brazilian authors in several foreign languages, even if English is the predominant language. Detailed analysis of references shows that many articles were written in German, French, Spanish and Japanese, among others. Likewise, constant and correct electronic citation means that this powerful tool is being properly used by national authors, a fact that has not been observed in foreign authors and whose reason is unknown.

Evidence-based practices are certainly a great ally for health professionals, concerning both the care and scientific contexts, especially faced with the infinite and overwhelming world production. However, these practices should always be seen and analyzed under a critical perspective,¹⁰ since there are many articles, editorials, final paper abstracts and case reports whose levels of scientific evidence were not high, but that have excellent technical and informative quality, besides being written by authors who have renowned experience. Therefore, the hierarchic scale of evidence has great value and applicability for articles concerning therapy and/or intervention.^{10,14-17}

Similarly, J Vasc Bras leaves ample room for themes related to bioethics, philosophy and practical aspects of our everyday routine, in editorials^{18,19} or in letters to the editor,²⁰⁻²² which denotes its holistic view. Manuscripts classified as new technologies not only innovate, but also arouse and foster scientific apprenticeship and search for answers that are able to facilitate the practitioner's life and, above all, benefit patients.²³⁻²⁵ It is also relevant to mention J Vasc Bras attitude to insert scientifically-based editorials encouraging readers to reflect on articles to be read,²⁶⁻²⁸ or that express different points of view on the same topic^{29,30} in the same volume, demonstrating maturity, transparency and encouraging scientific thinking.

Centered in the mission of ethically transmitting scientific knowledge and serve as the official publication of SBACV, J Vasc Bras has been publishing national forums,³¹ symposiums,³²⁻³⁴ guidelines^{35,36} and clinical guidelines,³⁷ which express the consensus in SBACV itself, besides international *guidelines*³⁸ on several thematic areas. This obviously implies the need of recurring to the national and international literature. Integration of knowledge is remarkable and providential, since different societies have different connotations about varied points of view. To be exempt from this fact is doubtlessly a self-destructive attitude, especially regarding a scientific journal.

Important data about J Vasc Bras were presented by its Editor-in-Chief during the II National Convention of SBACV, which was held in Rio de Janeiro on January 16 and 17, 2008, in which the Superior Counsel, the National Board and the College of Presidents were present. According to the Editor-in-Chief, there were 60,000 visits to J Vasc Bras articles at SciELO in 2006, and J Vasc Bras has been currently receiving about 400-800 monthly visits in its *website*, against 300 visits in 2004,³ and the current number of copies is 2,700, distributed not only throughout Brazil, but also for Latin America and Europe. Added to that is the fact that the journal started receiving support from the governmental agency National Council of Technological and Scientific Development (CNPq) this year. However, and despite many achievements, there are still some challenges to be overcome, especially the current number of manuscripts received every year (95), which is lower than the 120 required for a possible index in the *National Library of Medicine* (MEDLINE). It should be stressed that, in average, 10-15% of

manuscripts are not accepted for publication for a number of motives, and that the journal is electronically connected to several scientific segments in the world wide web, such as the *European Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery* and the journal *Cirurgias Vasculares de Habla Hispana*.

But, above all, it is extremely important to reflect about our attitude as authors. Why do we have such a few number of citations of national publications and of J Vasc Bras itself? As can be seen throughout this study, J Vasc Bras has hundreds of manuscripts, not only of all large thematic areas in our specialty, but also of other knowledge areas, of a high scientific quality, as well as various national scientific journals that are already indexed in MEDLINE, both in clinical and research areas.

In fact, the international community has extremely relevant studies, of immediate applications and great impact; however, valuing the national literature grants a particular characteristic to a person, group or institution, providing them with tradition and strength, besides, in another level, increasing the ability of raising resources and finding new talents.⁷ Valuing the national scientific production, or a particular journal, implies increase in credibility, visibility and impact of its publications.³⁹ In addition, there is wide room and many national scientific gaps on administrative and management issues in health care, on quality of life of our population in relation to varied existing diseases and that are often specific for Brazil and macroregion, as well as the vital need of increasing our intellectual production, technological innovation and patenting.⁴⁰

Data obtained from Coordination and Improvement of Higher Level Personnel (CAPES) reveal that half of dissertations and theses concluded by graduate programs and courses in our country are not published, making access to Brazilians and foreigners difficult. Disadvantages in this type of conduct are many, not only for the respective courses and programs, but also for authors/advisors, for the national scientific production, which is subdued, and for our own civil society, which cannot receive the bonus of intellectual production and biotechnological innovation generated in Brazil.⁸ Therefore, it is known that one of CAPES criteria to recommend a given graduate program is exactly the quality of the journal in which the article was published. To be fair, this study showed that there has been considerable increase in publications of final papers over the past years, as well as in other national publications. Proof of that is the fact that there was no significant difference as to this item, translating not only their recognition, but also a positive change in attitude.

Finally, corroborating what was published in 1994 and repeated in 2005³⁹ regarding citations of scientific journals by Brazilian authors and in the search for possible answers, next is a list of behaviors shown by national authors that deserve to be stressed:

- excessive citation of international text books much older than national text books, even when intention is to write about "updates;"
- citations of older foreign articles that have a significantly lower population than recent national articles with similar methodology;
- complete absence of national citations, even when the theme has been exhaustively published in J Vasc Bras, including in the form of consensus, guidelines, etc.;
- tendency to publication regionalization;
- omission of similar articles published in recent volumes to the detriment of much older foreign articles;
- bizarre attitude of not citing oneself or the group to which one belongs, even when it is a continuation of a previous article or somehow being part of a common research line.

Such conducts cannot obviously be generalized, but anyhow they should serve as an alert. J Vasc Bras is currently indexed in SciELO Brazil, LILACS, SIIC, Elsevier's Bibliographic Databases, EMBASE and SCOPUS, and has been progressively receiving articles by foreign authors.⁹ In a close future, it can be indexed in MEDLINE, which is based on quality, regularity and punctuality.

Thus, there is a possibility of J Vasc Bras supporting scientific writing and creation of articles likely to be submitted to MEDLINE, renewing members in its group of reviewers, which has as one of its essential functions guidance to authors about similar articles published in J Vasc Bras, and narrowing bonds with national graduate programs recommended by CAPES. Therefore, we have technical and scientific capacity; however, to turn it into reality, it is necessary to involve all SBACV members.

Conclusions

Despite being young, J Vasc Bras has been overcoming obstacles and fulfilling its role, both as SBACV official publication and as a scientific journal. Its achievements allow deducing that our journal is on the right path. However, there are still challenges to be overcome, especially regarding national authors, who have been and will always be part of all achievements.

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