



## Comments on: Yilmaz and Bas (2020) “An Analysis of Publications on Cervical Plexus Blocks,” *Indian J. Surg.*, 82: 792–795

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Yilmaz and Bas recently published a paper in the *Indian Journal of Surgery* entitled “An analysis of publications on cervical plexus blocks” [1]. Authors mentioned in “Materials and Methods” section that “This study was conducted on March 10, 2019, using the WoS software to analyze cervical plexus block publications included in Science Citation Index Expanded (SCI-E). We searched all papers in the area of CPBs published between 1975 and March 10, 2019, using the terms ‘cervical plexus block,’ ‘superficial cervical plexus block,’ ‘intermediate cervical plexus block,’ ‘deep cervical plexus block,’ ‘regional anesthesia in cervical plexus block,’ and ‘loco-regional anesthesia in cervical plexus block’ in the topic search section of the software.” Search keywords are not appropriate. No document can be search out by search keywords: “regional anesthesia in cervical plexus block,” or “loco-regional anesthesia in cervical plexus block.” When authors used “cervical plexus block,” all others: “superficial cervical plexus block,” “intermediate cervical plexus block,” “deep cervical plexus block,” “regional anesthesia in cervical plexus block,” and “loco-regional anesthesia in cervical plexus block” are not necessary. However, the authors missed the search keyword “cervical plexus blocks” in their study.

Yilmaz and Bas also mentioned in “Results” section that “Overall, 260 papers were published in cervical plexus block and were included in SCI-E between 1975 and March 10, 2019.” It is impossible to know the total number of publications in 2019 on March 10, 2019.

Using the terms “cervical plexus block” and “cervical plexus blocks” in the topic search section of the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCI-EXPANDED) from 1975 to 2019 (data last updated: 15 January 2021) resulted in 279 documents including 205 articles (73% of the 279 documents). The

SCI-EXPANDED database is mainly used for researchers to find literature, not for bibliometric research [2]. Therefore, it is always necessary to perform data processing when using the SCI-EXPANDED database, rather than directly using the data in the database. In order to improve the bias of using SCI-EXPANDED for bibliometric research, Ho’s group proposed a “front page” (including document title, abstract, and author keywords) in 2012 [3]. The documents searched out by terms of KeyWords Plus were irrelevant to the search topic. A big difference was found in widely bibliometric studies [4–8]. Only 235 documents (84% of 279 documents) contain search keywords: “cervical plexus block” or “cervical plexus blocks” in their title, abstract, or author keywords while 44 articles (16% of 279 documents) were likely to be irrelevant to “cervical plexus blocks.”

Yilmaz and Bas [1] published “An analysis of publications on cervical plexus blocks” in the *Indian Journal of Surgery* using inappropriate methods. This may result in misleading readers of the journal [9]. From a statistical point of view, it is inappropriate to use such limited data for bibliometric research. It is inappropriate to use such limited data to have a bibliometric study from a statistical point of view [10]. Research is the way to the truth so that innovations are important to discover something new or a new understanding to approach the truth [5]. For researchers, repeating the same problem again and again without improving their research is not helpful [10].

**Availability of Data and Material** Yes, data and material are available.

**Code Availability** Not applicable.

**Author Contribution** I am single author who did everything myself.

### Declarations

**Conflict of interest** The author declares no competing interests.  
To Be Used for Life Science Journals + Articles with Biological Applications  
Not applicable.

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