






**Metrics on surgical topics in Revista Información Científica, 2018-2022****Métricas sobre temas quirúrgicos en Revista Información Científica, 2018-2022****Métricas sobre temas cirúrgicosna Revista Información Científica, 2018-2022**

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**ABSTRACT**

**Introduction:** research on surgical topics is essential to advance the comprehensive care of the sick patient. Updated scientific production published systematically influences the course of research practice. **Objective:** to characterize the scientific production on surgical topics published in Revista Información Científica in the period 2018-2022. **Method:** a bibliometric, observational, cross-sectional study was carried out, consisting of 55 scientific articles. No sampling technique was used. The variables analyzed were: year of publication, type of article, number of authors, medical specialty, origin of the author and bibliographic references. Descriptive statistics and the Price index were applied. The data was collected until November 10, 2023. **Results:** the year 2019 presented the highest number of articles (n=18; 32.72%). Case reports (n=27; 49.09%), articles with 4 authors and male sex (n=122; 71.34%) prevailed. The Hospital General Docente "Dr. Agostinho Neto" stood out with

the largest number of authors (n=58; 54.20%). The specialty of General Surgery contributed 25% of the authors. The case reports were the most read and the year 2018 saw the highest number of citations. Were used 945 references, of them 445 under 5 years of age. **Conclusions:** the articles on surgical topics analyzed are characterized by meeting national and international quality parameters, always with a constructive approach to increase their visibility, although more needs to be improved regarding the level of updating of the references. It is a multidisciplinary journal, so the number of articles published on these topics is considered sufficient.

**Keywords:** bibliometrics; scientific communication; surgical procedures; general surgery



**RESUMEN**

**Introducción:** la investigación en temas quirúrgicos es esencial para avanzar en la atención integral del paciente enfermo. La producción científica actualizada publicada con sistematicidad influye en el curso de la práctica investigativa. **Objetivo:** caracterizar la producción científica sobre temas quirúrgicos publicados en Revista Información Científica en el período 2018-2022. **Método:** se realizó un estudio bibliométrico, observacional, de corte transversal, conformado por 55 artículos científicos. No se empleó técnica muestral. Las variables analizadas fueron: año de publicación, tipo de artículo, cantidad de autores, especialidad médica, procedencia del autor y referencias bibliográficas. Se aplicó la estadística descriptiva y el índice de Price. Los datos se recopilaron hasta el 10 de noviembre de 2023. **Resultados:** el año 2019 presentó el mayor número de artículos (n=18; 32,72 %). Prevalcieron los informes de casos (n=27; 49,09 %), artículos con 4 autores y el sexo masculino (n=122; 71,34 %). El Hospital General Docente "Dr. Agostinho Neto" sobresalió con la mayor cantidad de autores (n=58; 54,20 %). La especialidad de Cirugía General aportó el 25 % de los autores. Los informes de caso fueron los más leídos y el año 2018 donde ocurrió la mayor cantidad de citas. Se emplearon 945 referencias, de ellas 445 menores de los 5 años. **Conclusiones:** los artículos sobre temas quirúrgicos analizados se caracterizan por cumplir los parámetros de calidad nacional e internacional, siempre con un enfoque constructivo para aumentar su visibilidad, aunque debe mejorar más lo relacionado con el nivel de actualización de las referencias. Es una revista multidisciplinaria por lo que se considera suficiente la cantidad de artículos publicados sobre dichos temas.

**Palabras clave:** bibliometría; comunicación científica; procedimientos quirúrgicos; cirugía general

**RESUMO**

**Introdução:** pesquisas sobre temas cirúrgicos são essenciais para avançar no cuidado integral do paciente enfermo. A produção científica atualizada e publicada influencia sistematicamente o curso da prática de pesquisa. **Objetivo:** caracterizar a produção científica sobre temas cirúrgicos publicada na Revista de Informação Científica no período 2018-2022. **Método:** foi realizado estudo bibliométrico, observacional, transversal, composto por 55 artigos científicos. Nenhuma técnica de amostragem foi utilizada. As variáveis analisadas foram: ano de publicação, tipo de artigo, número de autores, especialidade médica, origem do autor e referências bibliográficas. Foram aplicadas estatísticas descritivas e índice de preços. Os dados foram coletados até 10 de novembro de 2023. **Resultados:** o ano de 2019 apresentou maior número de artigos (n=18; 32,72%). Prevalceram relatos de casos (n=27; 49,09%), artigos com 4 autores e sexo masculino (n=122; 71,34%). O Hospital General Docente "Dr. Agostinho Neto" destacou-se com o maior número de autores (n=58; 54,20%). A especialidade de Cirurgia Geral contribuiu com 25% dos autores. Os relatos de casos foram os mais lidos e o ano de 2018 registrou o maior número de citações. Foram utilizadas 945 referências, sendo 445 menores de 5 anos. **Conclusões:** os artigos sobre temas cirúrgicos analisados caracterizam-se por atender parâmetros de qualidade nacionais e internacionais, sempre com uma abordagem construtiva para aumentar sua visibilidade, embora seja necessário melhorar ainda mais no nível de atualização das referências. É uma revista multidisciplinar, pelo que o número de artigos publicados sobre estes temas é considerado suficiente.

**Palavras-chave:** bibliometria; comunicação científica; procedimentos cirúrgicos; cirurgia geral

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## INTRODUCTION

Scientific research is a systematic process that aims to solve problems, validate theories and advance different fields of knowledge. It is based on the application of scientific methods and uses empirical data to answer questions, test hypotheses and improve the understanding of the world around us. It has been characterized as the main basis of the knowledge society, emphasizing the generation of new information channels and mechanisms, which provide opportunities for development in different social fields such as cultural, economic, political and technological.<sup>(1)</sup>

On the other hand, it can also be said that it constitutes a determining factor in the integral formation of the professional, an aspect reflected in the curricula of medical science careers, together with teaching and health care work, since with well-designed plans it offers favorable results in the medium and long term.<sup>(2;3)</sup>

Science and innovation demand exchange among researchers on the basis of results endorsed by the international scientific community. In this sense, it is understood that scientific journals are the most far-reaching and transparent organs of dissemination for the socialization of results.<sup>(4)</sup>

The publication of manuscripts in professional journals strengthens collaboration among experts and provides a space for sharing findings with the academic community worldwide. Systematically published articles (scientific production) influence the course of research practice.<sup>(4)</sup>

The purpose of quantitative analysis of scientific production is bibliometrics, which is part of scientometrics and its function consists of the application of statistical methods to examine the scientific literature and the authors who produce it.<sup>(5)</sup>

Research in surgical topics is essential to advance in the integral care of the sick patient. It contributes to the understanding of factors that have an impact on the efficacy of the surgical procedure, which provides a more selective treatment to the needs of each person.<sup>(6)</sup> The surgical area is a priority care focus in hospital institutions, because it involves high costs and a high level of complexity.<sup>(7)</sup>

One of the journals of the Cuban health system is Revista Información Científica (RIC), official organ of scientific communication of the University of Medical Sciences of Guantánamo, mainly addressed to professional health researchers or those linked to this sector with the interest of publicizing the impact of their research.<sup>(8)</sup>

Several bibliometric studies were found.<sup>(9,10,11,12,13)</sup> However, these were not focused on characterizing a branch of the medical sciences. The specialty of surgery was chosen because it has maintained its frequency of publication since the beginning of the journal.



For these reasons, it is necessary to evaluate the scientific production of surgical topics in order to establish guidelines for editorial management, as well as to develop complementary materials for research purposes by taking into account the most cited articles; aspects that justify the present bibliometric study, with the growing volume of information published on innovation and patient reports.

Objective: to characterize the articles on surgical topics published in Revista Información Científica in the period 2018-2022.

## METHOD

A bibliometric study of observational, descriptive, cross-sectional design was carried out in the period October-November 2023, at the Medical Sciences University of Guantánamo.

The universe was formed by 55 scientific articles published in Revista Información Científica in the period 2018-2022. We worked with the totality of the universe so no sampling technique was applied.

Articles published in regular issues of the journal were included. Volumes dedicated to special supplements of the journal were excluded, since they do not contain the information required by the variables of the study. All articles whose text dealt with clinical-surgical aspects were included in the study.

The variables analyzed were: articles according to year of publication, type of article, number of authors per article, authors according to sex, institutions according to number of authors, articles according to number of readings, and most cited articles, surgical specialties according to number of authors, number of bibliographic references according to type of article.

The information was collected through November 10, 2023 via the journal's official website (<http://www.revinfocientifica.sld.cu>). Each article was downloaded in PDF format for better analysis and data collection. The number of readings was found in the same statistical tools that the journal makes visible on its official website.

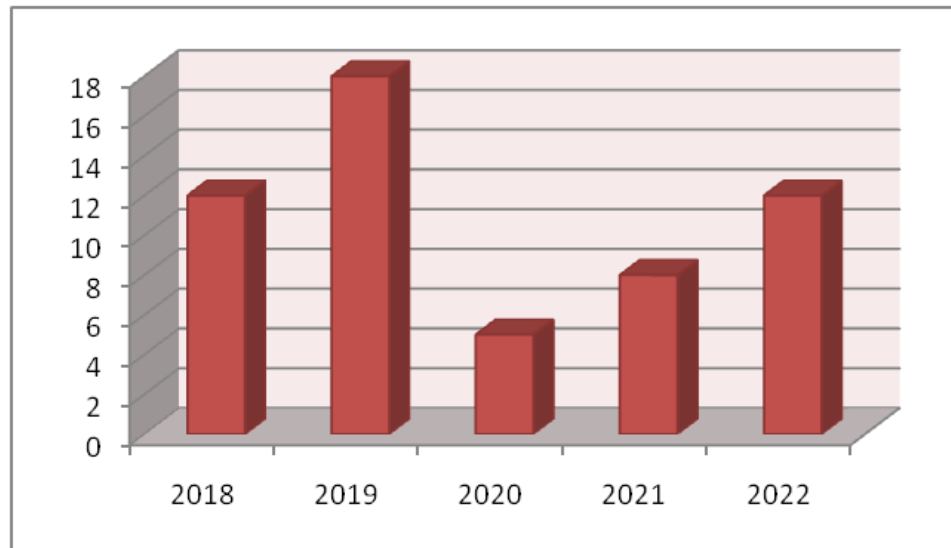
A database was created in Microsoft Excel 2010. Statistical processing involved the calculation of absolute frequency and percentage statistics (descriptive statistics), and tables were drawn up to show the data in summary form. Two types of bibliometric indexes were applied: production and consumption. The Price index was used (ratio between references less than five years since the publication of the article and the total number of references in the article).

The ethical standards for health sciences research and the Helsinki Declaration were respected. No distinctive data of the authors of the articles studied were used. The information was used for scientific purposes and in the interest of broadening knowledge. In addition, the Ethics Committee and Scientific Council of Medical Sciences University of Guantánamo were approved.



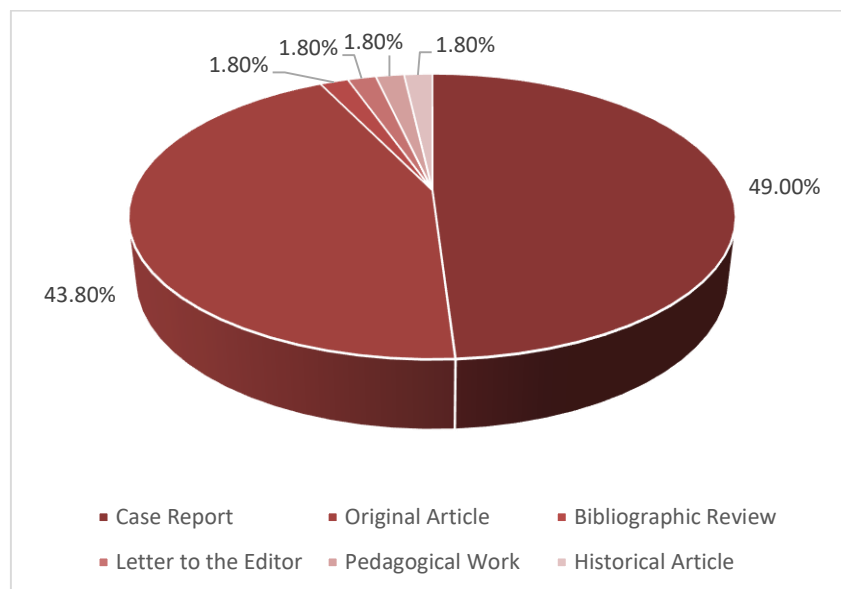
## RESULTS

A total of 55 articles were published in the period 2018-2022. The year with the highest number of articles was 2019, with 18 (32.72 %). Those with the lowest production were 2020 and 2021 (Figure 1).



Graph 1 Number of articles by year of publication.

RIC published in the period 2018-2022 five volumes, each consisting mainly of six and seven issues. Figure 2 shows the predominance of Case Reports (n=27; 49.09 %) and Original Articles (n=24; 43.63 %). There were also five supplements dedicated to different scientific events both of the university and of national and international projection, which, as already mentioned, were excluded from the study.



Graph 2 Distribution of articles according to type.



A total of 171 authors were found, of which the male sex predominated (n=122; 71.34%). There was a higher incidence of articles with 4 authors. The most productive institution was the General Teaching Hospital "Dr. Agostinho Neto" of Guantánamo province (n=58; 54.20 %), followed by the University of Medical Sciences of Guantánamo (n=19, 17.75 %) (Table 1)

**Table 1 Distribution of the eight most productive institutions according to number of authors (n=171).**

No.	Institution	Number of authors	%
1	Dr. Agostinho Neto General Teaching Hospital, Guantánamo.	58	54,20
2	University of Medical Sciences of Guantánamo. Faculty of Medical Sciences of Guantánamo.	19	17,75
3	General Hospital "Dr. Juan Bruno Zayas Alfonso", Santiago de Cuba, Cuba.	10	9,34
4	National Institute of Oncology and Radiobiology. Havana, Cuba.	5	4,67
5	Dr. Ambrosio Grillo" Clinical Surgical Teaching Hospital, Santiago de Cuba.	5	4,67
6	Pediatric Teaching Hospital "General Pedro Agustín Pérez". Guantanamo, Cuba.	4	3,73
7	San Gregorio de Portoviejo University. Manabí, Ecuador.	3	2,80
8	Clinical Surgical Hospital "Lucia Iñiguez Landín". Holguín, Cuba.	3	2,80

Table 2 reflects the ten articles that received the highest number of readings during the research time period (October-November 2023). The case reports appear in the first places.

**Table 2 Distribution of the ten most read articles according to type and number of readings.**

No.	Title	Typology	Number of reading
1	Monckeberg's arteriosclerosis in uterine vessels: an interesting incidental finding	Case Report	4401
2	Prostate cancer: update	Bibliographic Review	1945
3	Reductive mastoplasty by modified Thorek technique in gigantomastia	Case Report	1102
4	Pyogenic liver abscess	Case Report	988
5	Thyroid cancer in the General Teaching Hospital "Dr. Agostinho Neto" of Guantanamo.	Original Article	966



6	Post-traumatic venous aneurysm in upper extremities	Case Report	960
7	Clinical-histological characterization of patients with esophageal cancer at the Guido Valadares National Hospital, East Timor.	Original Article	874
8	Postoperative intra-abdominal infection treated with open abdominal technique from an inclusive approach.	Original Article	859
9	Peripheral osteoma of unusual mandibular localization	Case Report	705
10	Emergency surgical interventions at the General University Hospital "Gustavo Aldereguía Lima" of Cienfuegos.	Original Article	584

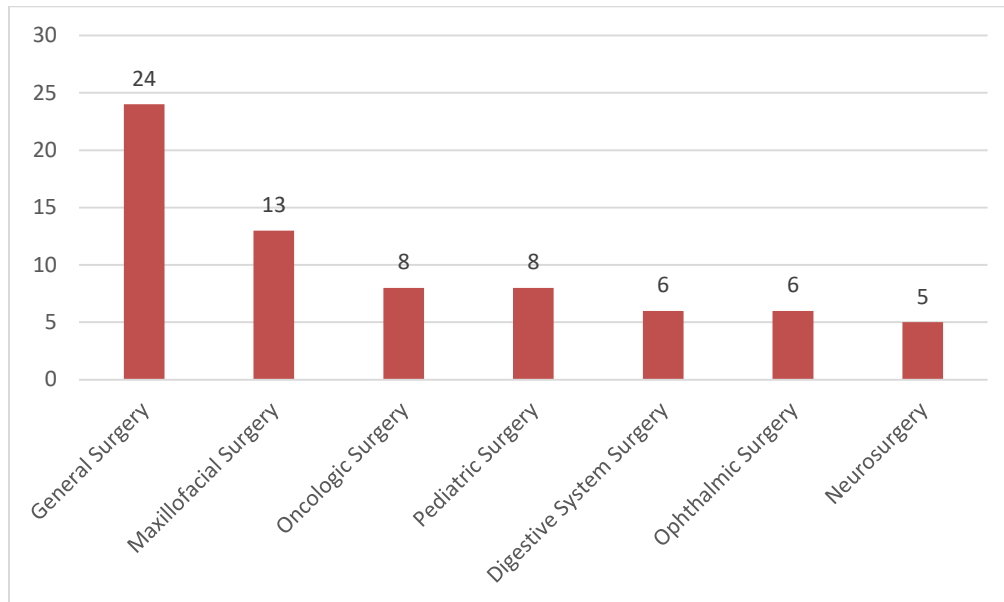
The ten most cited articles are reflected in Table 3, where it can be seen that 2018 was the year where the most citations were obtained.

Table 3 Distribution of the ten most cited articles by year of publication.

No.	Title	Year of publication	Number of cites
1	Characterization of ectopic pregnancy	2018	36
2	Prostate cancer: update	2019	34
3	Corneal ulcers in patients attended at the General Teaching Hospital "Dr. Agostinho Neto", Guantánamo 2014-2019.	2020	13
4	Behavior of oral cancer in the General Teaching Hospital "Octavio de la Concepción de la Pedraja".	2018	12
5	Characterization of adolescents with induced abortion at the Municipal Hospital of Libolo, Kwansa Sul, Angola.	2018	12
6	Acute surgical abdomen in pregnancy	2018	11
7	Thyroid cancer in the General Teaching Hospital "Dr. Agostinho Neto" of Guantánamo.	2018	9
8	Malignant tumors. Evaluation of the quality of premortem diagnoses. 1993-1999	2018	9
9	Epidemiological, clinical and surgical aspects of metastatic brain tumors.	2019	8
10	Catamenial pneumothorax. Presentation of a case	2019	5

The specialty of General Surgery contributed 25% of the authors, followed by Maxillofacial Surgery (13.54%), Pediatrics and Oncology with 8;33%, respectively (Chart 3).





**Graph 3** Distribution of the seven most productive surgical specialties according to authors

During the study period, 945 references were used, mostly concentrated in original articles (n=497) and case reports (n=320). Of these, a total of 445 references were less than 5 years old (Table 4).

The Price index for these surgical articles was 0.47.

**Table 4** Distribution of bibliographic references according to typology

Type of article	Bibliographic references				Price index
	No.	%*	≤ 5 years	%**	
Letter to the Editor	4	0,42	1	0,10	0,25
Original Article	497	52,59	245	25,92	0,49
Bibliographic Review	88	9,31	41	4,33	0,46
Case Report	320	33,86	155	16,40	0,48
Pedagogical Work	16	1,69	3	0,31	0,18
Historical Article	20	2,11	-	-	0,00
<b>Total</b>	<b>945</b>		<b>445</b>		<b>0,47</b>





## DISCUSSION

According to the criteria of Deroy-Domínguez, et al.<sup>(14)</sup> publication in a prestigious journal guarantees priority in the announcement of a result, increases the academic credit of a scientist, authenticates his activity and develops scientific communication systems. Revista Información Científica (RIC) has an excellent editorial team, whose work has given it national and international visibility. Thus, according to Chibas-Muñoz, it is consolidated as a scientific dissemination medium of reference for professionals in the health sector in Cuba and America.<sup>(8)</sup>

When comparing the years of scientific production, a decrease of articles related to surgical topics was observed in the first two years, while an increase in the frequency of publication was observed in the remaining years. Such considerations have their genesis in the instability of doctors in this specialty, which is negative for its regular production. It also depends on several factors: teaching category and direct approach to research according to Vitón-Castillo, et al.

On the other hand, Diaz-Samada, et al.<sup>(16)</sup> refer that case reports are of great relevance as a methodological standard. They modify the treatment of diseases, clinico-surgical and epidemiological characterization of others that are rarely cited and that should be reported for differential diagnosis. In the surgical sciences, clinical cases are very common due to their atypical characteristics, complications and extreme situations; ideas that correspond with the bibliometric study carried out by Herrera-Miranda, et al.<sup>(17)</sup> on Internal Medicine.

However, a similar inquiry to Revista Médica Electrónica revealed the prevalence of original manuscripts, which differs with the present article. Journal quality regulations and database indexing requirements demand a majority of original submissions, as this is the main source of generation and consolidation of new insights.<sup>(12)</sup>

According to Castro-Rodríguez<sup>(18)</sup> letters to the editor are a special type of short manuscript that are generally used to comment on or critically analyze an article previously published in the journal or to write an article that does not cover any of the journal's formats but may be relevant to readers. Several experts report their low production in professional scientific journals, which is closely related to the results of the current study. However, García-Raga, et al.<sup>(19)</sup> perceive a notable predominance of these, since they are easy to produce and take less time to write.

Regarding the sex of the authors, the results showed that despite the predominance of women in the health sector, a fact related to the reinforcement of gender identity,<sup>(20)</sup> there are specialties where men are in the majority, such as General Surgery. These results coincide with those of Rodríguez Sotomayor et al.<sup>(21)</sup> who, in the study of the scientific production of Cuban medical universities, show the tendency for men to predominate in some journals as main authors and collaborating with other male researchers, which reflects the existence of gender gaps in scientific production.



The General Teaching Hospital "Dr. Agostinho Neto" displaced the Faculty of Medical Sciences of Guantánamo as the most productive. In fact, it agrees with what was stated by Véliz Burgos, et al.<sup>(22)</sup> in a review of the Finlay magazine, who declared the provincial hospital (Cienfuegos) as the highest producer.

On the other hand, Cedillo-Balcázar<sup>(23)</sup> states that the link between universities and health care centers facilitates the transfer of knowledge between academia and clinical practice. Universities share scientific advances with health professionals, ensuring that care is based on the best available scientific evidence and skills.

General surgery research was reported in a treatise as the predominant branch of surgery, coinciding with the current report.<sup>(15)</sup> On the other hand, a news item published in The American Journal of Surgery reviewed orthopedic surgery as predominant publications according to Díaz-Samada, et al.<sup>(16)</sup>

Group work in scientific research offers the opportunity to take advantage of the complementarity of skills and professional development, since it is usually a difficult process at the beginning, so having the support of a team is essential to maintain motivation and overcome the challenges that may arise during the process; conclusive statements by Díaz-Samada, et al.<sup>(16)</sup> in some metrics of Plastic Surgery in Cuban scientific journals.

Multiple authorship is common in the medical sciences and is coined in the literature because it increases the visibility of the publication by reaching a larger group of people and constituting cooperation networks, according to the criteria of Vitón-Castillo, et al. in a study on Oncology metrics in Cuban student scientific journals.<sup>(15)</sup>

The updated bibliographic references provide context and theoretical foundation to a study or research. By substantiating claims with recent relevant projects, credibility is strengthened and the work is shown to be within the theoretical framework and existing scientific basis.<sup>(24)</sup>

Price's index corroborated the use of updated bibliographic references in the present bibliometric study, but not enough. This is understandable in the case of historical articles and case reports, but not in original articles and bibliographic reviews. According to the criteria of Espinosa-Goire, et al.<sup>(25)</sup> it offers greater credit to research and the development of collaborative networks, which denotes the quality of review to which the manuscript is subjected prior to publication.

## CONCLUSIONS

The articles on surgical topics published in Revista Información Científica in the period 2018-2022 are characterized by meeting the parameters of national and international quality, always with a constructive approach to increase its visibility, although it should further improve that related to the level of updating of references. It does not constitute a journal for the publication of surgical topics in its entirety; for this reason the authors considered the number of published articles sufficient.



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[Base de datos de Métricas sobre temas quirúrgicos en Revista Información Científica, 2018-2022](#)

