

The Scientific Impact of Siriraj Medical Journal

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To the Editor,

Citations and references are important in written work in general and in scientific publications in particular. They serve to provide the reader with additional and detailed discussions relevant to the topic addressed and, as such, to evaluate the accuracy of descriptions, analyses and conclusions written by the authors. The number of citations of a certain article published during a particular year is used to calculate the “impact factor” (IF), thereby allowing for an estimation of the research impact and significance of the publications. In this context, it should be noted that the IF was created with the intent of comparing journals, not authors or individual articles. 1) Nevertheless, the journal IF has generally been evaluated for the quality of an individual’s research and publications.

We have published an article entitled “Factitious results in clinical chemistry tests caused by common endogenous interferents” in the July-August 2010 issue of Siriraj Medical Journal (SMJ). 2) According to the Google Scholar, the article has thus far been cited by 5 international articles 3-7 as well as by 2 dissertations. Since the IFs of SMJ in the past years are largely unknown, probably due to a lack of the correct number of citations, it is important to encourage the authors to report all citations of their articles in order to achieve a more accurate estimation of the scientific impact of SMJ. In this regards, we would like to suggest Google Scholar as the search engine for citations since it includes, in contrast to the Scopus, also non-journal publications such as textbooks and dissertations.

References

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