Scientific Publications in Cancer: In Latin-America, Strong Scientific Networks Increase Productivity (The TENJIN Study).

Ruiz-Patiño A., Cardona Andrés F., Arrieta O., Rolfo C., Gómez H., Raez L., Lopes G., Zatarain Barrón Z., Ricaurte L., Zamudio-Molano N., Rangel Parra V., Oviedo J., Solano M. Rojas L., Corrales L., Martín C., Mas L., Cuello M., Barrón F., Otero J., Carranza H., and Vargas C., Rosell R.

The Lancet. 2019; April 24.

Abstract

Background: Cancer is a global problem. Estimates for 2018 expect around 18.1 million new cases and 9.6 related deaths worldwide. Interestingly, there is significant geographical variation in cancer research that has an inverse correlation with cancer-specific mortality. In Latin America (LATAM), the percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) invested in research is below 1% in the majority of countries. The region has been a participant in only 4.6% of clinical trials in cancer worldwide and produced only 4% of all scientific publications. ü Methods: This study, a bibliometric analysis of cancer-related publications in LATAM establishes the relationship between sociodemographic factors and countries, taking into account authors and their networking efforts. We implemented a high sensitivity search strategy for cancer publications between 2000 and 2018 using the Scopus database, limited to LATAM nations. We constructed collaboration networks for both authors and citations for LATAM and each country in the region, calculated correlations between the number of included publications, author and national indicators. ü Findings: The search included 8528 articles across 9 countries. Brazil was the most productive nation with 41.8% of the included references. Mexico (16.6%), Argentina (12.9%), and Chile (9.7%) followed. LATAM experienced a 9% growth in publications. Peru had the greatest percentage growth (23%). Number of publications by country highly correlated with author network size ($r = 0.75$, $p = 0.019$). Percentage of invested GDP in research and development correlated positively with the number of publications for most nations. Interpretation: LATAM has experienced a significant growth in cancer related publications. Furthermore, it highlights the importance of scientific networking as a strategy for increasing scientific productivity. Hopefully, these results will serve to bolster oncology related publications in the region, further contributing with cancer research and leading to progress in the scientific field.

Toxicidad financiera.

Rossana Ruiz.

Carcinos 2018; 8(2): 94-96.

Abstracto

La toxicidad financiera, definida como el "impacto del costo del cuidado oncológico a nivel del paciente" se ha introducido en las discusiones oncológicas y ha ganado notoriedad durante las últimas reuniones anuales de la Sociedad Americana de Oncología Clínica (ASCO), donde los problemas del valor y costos han surgido en varias conferencias. Y esto no sorprende, dado que el costo de los medicamentos oncológicos ha aumentado exponencialmente en las últimas décadas. Antes del 2000, el precio promedio anual de los medicamentos oncológicos era 12 000 dólares americanos (USD), aumentando a más de 120 000 USD para el 2015; cifras que superan con creces el producto bruto interno (PBI) per cápita de cualquier país latinoamericano. Un artículo publicado en la revista Cáncer analizó los factores determinantes del aumento del costo de los medicamentos contra el cáncer, y señaló que existen estrategias que se pueden implementar para reducir los costos y mejorar el acceso de estos medicamentos en los países de ingresos medios y bajos (PIMB), como Latinoamérica.