

Pharmacoeconomic Publications in Spain: A Bibliometric Study of the Last 10 Years

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Aims: To analyse the pharmacoeconomic bibliographic production written by Spanish authors and published in Spanish and international scientific journals, during the last ten years. To evaluate the impact these studies have had on the decision making over the different health services, journal titles, where the studies have been often published, the collaboration among authors to write them, and the growth of bibliographic production in itself.

Methods: The bibliography has been chosen, based on varying requests in international and Spanish databases: Medline, Embase, Biosis, Cancerlit, Cochrane, IME, Soikos. More than 450 references have been reviewed, including 147 journals published since 1991. A bibliometric study was carried out directing special attention to: the annual growth of the number of articles, the journals' impact factor measured by Price's Law, the journals' dispersion by Bradford's Law, the preferences of the Spanish authors on international or national journals, the most recurrent subjects, and the collaboration among authors.

Results: Of these 147 analysed journals, 82 of them were international, and 65, Spanish. A dispersion of the titles has been observed among the international journals, while among the Spanish group, four journals, two general and two specialised, collect more than half the production published in Spain. Most of the studies have been written by two or more authors, few publications were written by one author. A steady increase of the number of these publications also has been observed.

Conclusions: The realisation and publication of pharmacoeconomics studies by Spanish authors have been increasing progressively over the last 10 years. The number of publications was duplicated during the years 2000-2001. These kinds of studies have become, in the last few years, a very important part of the clinical, administrative, and health political decisions.