Participation of the Journal Acta Médica Portuguesa in the Scientific Production on COVID-19

Participação da Revista Acta Médica Portuguesa na Produção Científica sobre COVID-19

Keywords: Authorship; COVID-19; Pandemics; Publishing **Palavras-chave:** Autoria; COVID-19; Pandemia; Publicação

Dear Editor.

The purpose of scientific research is to strengthen human knowledge, making it known through publication and dissemination in scientific journals or other media. The COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on healthcare systems and economies globally, generating the need to know about this virus, as well as prevention strategies, treatments and vaccines. It is therefore essential to value the efforts of researchers who are at the forefront of studies related with the new coronavirus.

Scientific research in healthcare is essential today; the development achieved by national healthcare systems means that scientific research is a strategy for strengthening primary health care.⁴ Many researchers from around the world have published articles related with COVID-19 in journals indexed in some of the best academic databases. This is the case of Acta Médica Portuguesa, which is indexed in several high impact databases, and therefore is a journal with visibility, making it possible for researchers to publish there on various topics such as those related with COVID-19.⁵

A retrospective study was conducted, examining the articles on COVID-19 published and indexed in the Scopus database of the journal Acta Médica Portuguesa, from January 2020 to December 2021, using in the search terms: "2019-nCoV" OR "SARS-CoV-2" OR "2019 novel coronavirus" OR "COVID-19" OR "Coronavirus disease 2019". A total of 146 articles were found, and the analysis included six

types of articles, with letters to the editor the most common type of publication (50.0 %), followed by research articles with an IMRaD format (21.2%) (Table 1).

Regarding authorship by country, Portugal is the country that contributes the largest number of scientific articles on COVID-19 in the journal, representing 91.1% of the production, followed by countries such as Belgium, The Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom, with 5.5%. In addition, only authors from two Latin American countries (Brazil and Peru) have published articles in the journal, with 4.8%.

We conclude that the journal Acta Médica Portuguesa publishes various types of articles on COVID-19, with a predominance of letters to the editor, research papers (with an IMRaD format) and clinical reviews. Likewise, publications of authors from Portugal prevail, followed by other European countries. Therefore, it would be important that researchers from other countries could also participate by publishing their studies in this prestigious journal, considering that it has high visibility and can reach researchers from all over the world.

AUTHORS CONTRIBUTION

RMH: Conception of the idea. Drafting, review and approval of the article.

MSL, XCR: Drafting, review and approval of the article. Review of the data.

COMPETING INTERESTS

The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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Table 1 – Percentage distribution of the scientific production on COVID-19 of the journal Acta Médica Portuguesa according to type of article

Document type	2020		2021		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Letter	38	26.0	35	24.0	73	50.0
Research Article	11	7.5	20	13.7	31	21.2
Review	16	11.0	8	5.5	24	16.4
Editorial	4	2.7	5	3.4	9	6.2
Note	3	2.1	2	1.4	5	3.4
Erratum	3	2.1	1	0.7	4	2.7

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