



Editorial

Impact Factors of Foot and Ankle Journals



The journal impact factors (IF) for 2020 has been released very recently. Due to the very positive IF-development of Foot and Ankle Surgery (2.705), this editorial should enlighten this development in comparison with other foot and ankle journals (Fig. 1).

The IF is frequently used as an indicator of the importance of a journal to its field [1]. It was first introduced by Eugene Garfield, the founder of the Institute for Scientific Information [1,2]. Although IF is widely used by institutions and clinicians, people have widespread misconception regarding the method for calculating the journal IF, its significance and how it can be utilized [1]. The IF of a journal is not associated to the factors like quality of peer review process and quality of content of the journal, but is a measure that reflects the average number of citations to articles published in journals, books, thesis, project reports, newspapers, conference/seminar proceedings, documents

published in internet, notes, and any other approved documents [1]. Journals with higher IFs believed to be more important than those with lower ones [3]. According to Eugene Garfield IF simply reflects the ability of the journals and editors to attract the best paper available [4]. Generally, publication of review articles increases the IF whereas publication of case reports decreases which also led to strategic adaption of Foot and Ankle Surgery [5,6]. IF can be calculated after completing the minimum of 3 years of publication; for that reason journal IF cannot be calculated for new journals [1]. The journal with the highest IF is the one that published the most commonly cited articles over the previous 2-year period [1]. IFs are calculated each year by Thomson scientific for those journals that it indexes, and are published in Journal Citation Reports (http://www.thomsonreuters.com/products_services/science/science_products/a-z/journal_citation_reports/).

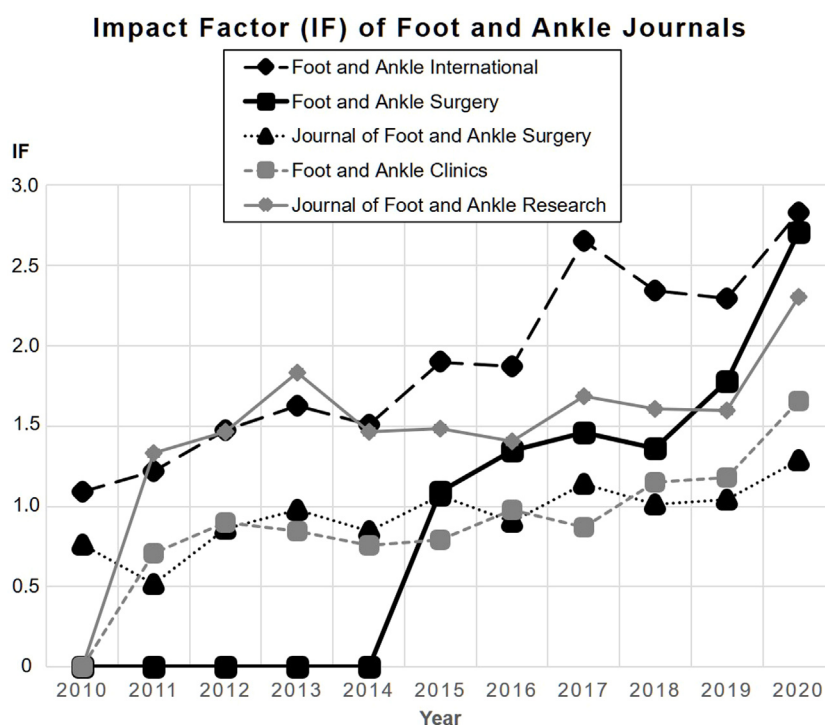


Fig. 1. Impact Factor (IF) of Foot and Ankle Journals.

IFs are calculated as shown

2020 IF = number of citations in 2020 to any content published in 2018 or 2019 divided through number of scholarly (citable) items published in 2017 or 2018

“Scholarly (citable) items” are defined as all items indexed with the Web of Science document type Article, Review, or Proceedings Paper. While only scholarly items are counted in the denominator of the IF calculation, the numerator is calculated by using all of the citations that a journal has accumulated.

Foot and Ankle Surgery did not have an IF before 2015 (Fig. 1). Four other foot and ankle journals (Foot and Ankle International, Journal of Foot and Ankle Surgery, Foot and Ankle Clinics, Journal of Foot and Ankle Research) had an IF by then with the highest IF for Foot and Ankle International with 1.626 in 2013. Foot and Ankle Surgery received its first ever IF (1.092) in 2015 moving it to third highest “IF position” behind Foot and Ankle International (1.896) and Journal of Foot and Ankle Research (1.481). In the following years, Foot and Ankle Surgery’s IF increased 2016 (1.348) and 2017 (1.458), and slightly decreased 2018 (1.363), still in third highest “IF position”. With a higher increase in 2019 (1.776), Foot and Ankle Surgery “overtook” the Journal of Foot and Ankle Research (1.598) and moved to second “IF position” but still clearly behind Foot and Ankle International (2.292). Finally, the IF of Foot and Ankle Surgery massively increased in 2020 to 2.705 which is now very close to Foot and Ankle International (2.827). This reflects the increased impact of Foot and Ankle Surgery among the other foot and ankle journals. Furthermore, the increased IF of all foot and ankle journals in 2020 reflects the increasing impact of foot and

ankle journals as such. In conclusion, the current IF certifies the very positive development of our journal. As this is only possible with enormous efforts, I thank all authors, reviewers and editors, the publisher and EFAS for the continuous contribution. The increased IF will again lead to increasing number of submissions, and I want to encourage you again to volunteer as reviewer to support the further development of our journal.

Martinus Richter, Editor-in-chief.

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