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Prostate Cancer Research, 2000-16, Its Citation Impact and its Influence on Clinical Practice Guidelines

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Abstract

We identified research papers on prostate cancer in the Web of Science over 17 years, 2000-16, and analysed their characteristics and citation impact. We compared outputs with countries' wealth and with their burden of disease from prostate cancer. We also collected 71 clinical practice guidelines (CPGs) from 28 countries and some international organisations, and downloaded their references, which form their evidence base and provide a better indicator of the impact of clinical research than citation counts on papers. They involved research on the three main treatments – chemotherapy, radiotherapy and surgery – but relatively fewer on genetics. Most countries' CPGs over-cited research from their own country; these papers represented the influence of the research on national healthcare systems. There were differences between countries in how recent were the references that they cited on their CPGs and some were using old research as the evidence base for their healthcare provision.

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