

Systemic lupus erythematosus in PubMed: a review of the articles published in 2016

Sirs,

We have read with great interest the excellent paper "One year in review 2017: systemic lupus erythematosus" by La Paglia *et al.* (1). We consider it as a very accurate and weighed selection of articles related to the etiopathogenesis, clinic, comorbidities and treatment of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). Additionally, we found it of great help to the international scientific community.

We conducted a review of the articles published on SLE in PubMed from March 2016 to February 2017. There were 2,290 articles that appeared under the term 'systemic lupus erythematosus' which results in an average of approximately 7 articles published daily.

We dedicated approximately 4 hours per week to analyse these 2,290 articles. We would like to highlight that 472 of the published articles referred to basic immunological and genetic studies, which represents the highest percentage among all the topics (29.6%). There were 421 articles that were

reviewed (18.4%), most of them very detailed and interesting. There were 331 publications (14.5%) refereed to isolated cases or small series of patients, many of these were of interest to the physicians specialised in this disease. According to standard quality criteria, we consider that 231 clinical articles (10.1%) do not significantly contribute or add new knowledge and 191 (8.3%) could be interesting, although they reported a small sample size and/or short follow-up. We consider that 115 clinical studies (5%) were of high quality. We only found 126 articles (5.5%) dedicated to the treatment, out of which 87 (3.8%) related to experimental treatments. There were 22 articles (9.6%) referred to cutaneous lupus and 249 (10.9%) did not refer to any study research in SLE.

We agree with La Paglia *et al.* in the most important works that they have commented in their article, being more relevant some genetic, immunological and clinical-therapeutic studies in SLE.

We are certain that the scientific community will very soon enjoy the benefits given the pace and quality of research in SLE. Undoubtedly, these invaluable findings will eventually improve the prognosis and quality of life of SLE patients.

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Reference

1. LA PAGLIA GMC, LEONE MC, LEPRI G, VAGELLI R, VALENTINI E, ALUNNO A, TANI C: One year in review 2017: systemic lupus erythematosus. *Clin Exp Rheumatol* 2017; 35: 551-61.