



Title	The Skewed Impact of Highly Cited Articles on Journal Impact Factor
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Letter to the Editor

The Skewed Impact of Highly Cited Articles on Journal Impact Factor

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Related Article:

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KEYWORDS

COVID-19; journal impact factor; JIF; scientometrics; bibliometrics; infometrics; journal; assessment; research; resources; medical journal; literature; database; community; behavior

I read with interest the paper by Delardas and Giannos [1]. As the authors pointed out, journal impact factor inflation can affect the integrity of researchers as well as publishers. This phenomenon has also been reported as a “blockbuster effect” not only in the 6 high-impact medical journals reported by the authors (*Annals of Internal Medicine*, *The BMJ*, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *The Lancet*, *Nature Medicine*, and *The New England Journal of Medicine*) but also in infectious disease journals [2]. A similar trend was observed in

200 journals with a high number of COVID-19–related publications in the Web of Science as well [3].

Delardas and Giannos [1] evaluated the impact of COVID-19–related articles on a journal-by-journal basis, but it is unknown whether they found a single article or a small number of articles that had a significant effect on impact factor. It would be helpful for readers if the authors could provide more detailed explanations.

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Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

Editorial Notice

The corresponding author of “How COVID-19 Affected the Journal Impact Factor of High Impact Medical Journals: Bibliometric Analysis” did not respond to this letter.

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1. Delardas O, Giannos P. How COVID-19 affected the journal impact factor of high impact medical journals: bibliometric analysis. *J Med Internet Res* 2022 Dec 21;24(12):e43089 [FREE Full text] [doi: [10.2196/43089](https://doi.org/10.2196/43089)] [Medline: [36454727](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36454727/)]
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