

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

1. Journal Submission Analysis – Summary

Many (294) journals have published EPI-related research articles, but while 10 journals have published 10 or more articles, most (208) journals have only published one. Most EPI articles are published in general GI journals (198 articles, 32 journals); followed by pancreas (86 articles, 9 journals); specialty (65 articles, 23 journals); general medicine (63 articles, 18 journals); and pediatrics (21 articles, 4 journals). A sub-review of 38 gastroenterology and pancreas-related journal submission systems evaluated which journals cover pancreas-related topics and whether they have EPI-related keywords or classifications; finding that while only 36% have EPI-related keywords, this ultimately does not correlate with where EPI research is published.

2. Journal Submission Analysis – Results

Where EPI research is published

To evaluate types and rates of EPI-related research and generate hypotheses regarding the influence of these findings, a journal submission system sub-analysis was performed manually to evaluate 38 common GI and pancreas-related journals. (*See Review Criteria section for details on the journal review methods as well as the review method details.*)

As summarized in Table 3 (*in Supplementary Appendix*), 38 gastroenterology and pancreas-related journals were screened by following their online submission system.

Of these journals, 21 (55%) specifically include pancreas or pancreatic-related conditions in their aims and scope. 26 journals include pancreas or pancreatic-related conditions as a category or broad keyword classification; 2 had categories or classifications that did not include the pancreas; and 10 did not have a category or keyword classification field.

Only 25 of the journals had a pre-specified list of keywords (one journal had both a pre-specified list and an open-ended keyword list option). 13 of these journals that had pre-specified keywords (56%, out of 25) did not have a single EPI-related keyword. Only 10 (36%) had specific EPI-related keywords of those that had pre-specified list of keywords (25) (*see Table 3 in Supplementary Appendix*). The average number of related keywords (e.g. enzymes, pancreatic function, elastase, etc.) was 4.4 keywords (min 1, max 9). EPI wasn't always mentioned as a keyword directly; only 5/10 (50%) of the journals that had other related keywords (25) included "exocrine pancreatic insufficiency" (EPI) itself as a keyword. Otherwise, it is alluded to with keywords such as "pancreatic function" or "pancreatic secretion" or in fewer cases, "pancreatic enzymes".

This therefore means EPI is only a keyword in 20% of those journals that enabled keywords, and represented as a default, pre-existing keyword in 13% overall of these 38 GI/Pancreas journals. Combined with those journals that allow an open-ended keyword list (8 additional journals), it is then possible to have an EPI-related keyword in a submission only in 34% of the GI/Pancreas journals.

From the systematic review, after removing 147 articles related to EPI in animals, 649 articles remained and were published in 294 distinct journals. Most journals (n=208) had only published 1 article on EPI, whereas the journal that published the most had published 38 articles. Table B shows the number of journals and the respective number of publication counts. 10 journals have published 10 or more EPI articles; 22 journals published 5 or more EPI articles, whereas 85 journals published 2 or more EPI articles.

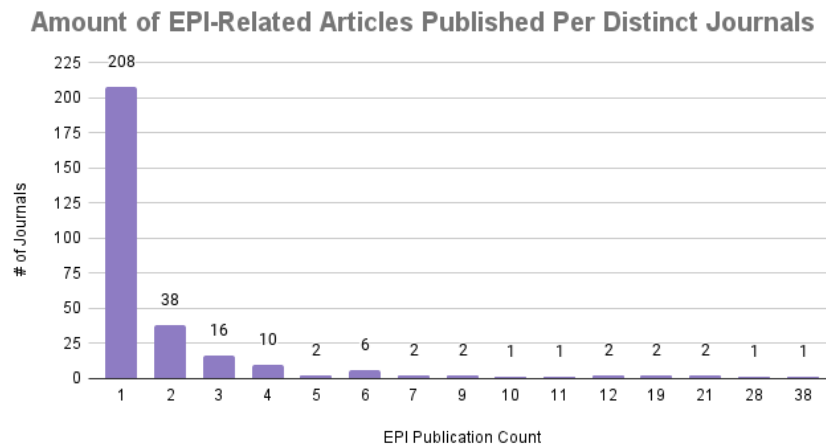


Fig. 1. The number of publications published by number of distinct journals. *The number of EPI-related articles by distinct journals. Whereas 208 journals have published 1 EPI-related article, 22 journals have published 5 or more EPI articles and only 10 EPI journals have published 10 or more articles.*

The journal was also manually categorized by type (Pancreas; General GI; Pediatrics; Specialty; or General Medicine). Of those publishing EPI articles, 32 general GI journals published 198 articles; 9 Pancreas journals published 86 articles; 23 specialty journals published 65 articles; 18 general medicine journals published 63 articles; and 4 pediatrics journals published 21 articles.

Sixteen of the GI and pancreas journals screened through the submission process did not have any EPI-related articles found through the systematic review search.

Table IV shows the journal name, publication count, and the categorization from the submission site as to whether they had a pancreas category, EPI keyword presence, and number of EPI keywords. There was no correlation found between presence of EPI-related keywords in the journal submission system and the likelihood of the gastroenterology journal publishing EPI-related articles. Of the top 10 journals publishing EPI content found in the systematic review, only 4 of these 10 articles had any EPI specific keyword present in their system (1 did not have a keyword classification field; and 1 of these was a CF journal that was not manually screened for keywords). Of the manual assessment of EPI-related keywords, the remaining 5 journals that had EPI-related keywords in their submission system did not appear (from the systematic review search) to have previously published any EPI-related articles.