## "Current Comments"

Highly Cited Articles. 33.
100 Articles from Pathology Journals\*

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[The first part of this reprinted article<sup>1</sup> discussed the citation of pathology journals, and their impact. This second part takes a different approach in journal evaluation.]

Another way of evaluating journals is to see how many highly cited articles they publish. For this reason, as well as for your general interest, there is an appended list of 100 articles from pathology journals in the list below. Of all

Acta Neuropathologica
Acta Pathologica Japonica
Acta Pathologica et Microbiologica
Scandinavica (A and B)
American Journal of Clinical Pathology
American Journal of Pathology
Archives of Pathology
Beiträge zur Pathologie
British Journal of Experimental Pathology
Experimental and Molecular Pathology
Experimentelle Pathologie
Human Pathology

Journal of Clinical Pathology
Journal of Comparative Pathology
Journal of Neuropathology and Experimental Neurology
Journal of Pathology
Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine, and Oral
Pathologia et Microbiologia
Pathologia Europaea
Pathologie et Biologie
Pathology
Virchows Archiv (A and B)

the articles they published, these hundred were cited most often during the fourteen years from 1961 to 1974. The 100 articles came from nine of the base pathology journals. The journals (with the number of articles contributed in parentheses) are: American Journal of Clinical Pathology (21); Journal of Clinical Pathology (21); American Journal of Pathology (17); British Journal of Experimental Pathology (12); Acta Pathologica et Microbiologica Scandinavica (10); Journal of Neuropathology and Experimental Neurology (9); Archives of Pathology (8); and, with one each, Experimental and Molecular Pathology and Virchows Archiv.

The articles are listed in order of decreasing frequency of citation during that period. The table shows how many times each has been cited during the 14 years, and how many times each has been cited in the years 1973 and 1974. The latter figure indicates the "vitality" of these papers, some of which, in terms of biblio-

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graphic half-life, are ancient wonders. Forty-three of the articles were published in the 1960s; 44 in the 1950s; 11 in the 1940s; and 2 in the 1930s.

Many are methods papers, a term that is, I think, too frequently and undeservedly used to render faint praise. There is much more than faint praise in the citation record of these papers. A good number are not methods papers, but reports on specific diseases and lesions. As a whole, the list makes it fairly plain that pathology is no longer the macropathology of pathologic anatomy. It has become the study of deviant and comparative microphysiology and microstructure.

As noted, these articles come from pathology journals. However, the results of this study suggest that many highly cited pathology articles have been published in journals like *Nature*, or in quasispecialty journals like *Archives of Internal Medicine*. Such papers will be the subject of future reports.

## **Highly Cited Pathology Articles**

The following 100 article titles were published by journals in the list which appears above. Of all articles published by each journal, these 100 were most frequently cited in the scientific literature during the period of 1961–1974.

The first number of each entry refers to the item number. The second number indicates the number of times the item was cited from 1961–1974. The number in parentheses refers to the number of citations from 1973–1974 only. Bibliographic data follow.

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