

Covid Italian Hospital, What Is Our Impact on Society?

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Abstract

Since the start of the pandemic the institution has become a Covid-19 hospital. Many parts of the hospital have been transformed to accommodate patients and it has become a reference point not only for the region but also nationally. Research on this virus began immediately, isolating the various strains and applying both experimental and more tested treatments such as the use of plasma. The hospital's activity has certainly not stopped, as has the research and publication of articles relating to other pathologies. The question we asked to us was: how much did it affect the production of articles on Covid-19 in social media, through Altmetric score, compared to the total of our production?

Methods

In this monocentric study, scientific production was collected from the year 2020 articles of our hospital. Two different searches on PubMed were performed: a more general one to recover the scientific production of our institution and a more specific one concerning the articles published on COVID-19 by our researchers. Through the PMID and the DOI of each publication, score on Altmetric.com was retrieved. Altmetrics did not originally cover citation counts, but calculate scholar

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impact based on diverse online research output, such as social media, online news media, online reference managers and so on.¹

Results

A total of n. 1461 articles were collected including 281 articles about COVID-19 theme. Good [Altmetric.com](https://www.altmetric.com/) scores are observed for the COVID-19 articles. Of the n. 1180 articles, that did not deal with COVID-19, n. 607 had an altmetrics score (51,44 %), while of the n. 281 that dealt with COVID-19 as many as n. 195 had an altmetrics score (69,40 %, chi square test $p < 0.0001$). This allowed us to observe a median of the altmetrical score of 7 (COVID) against 2 (no COVID) with a significant of ($P < 0.0001$ Mann-Whitney test). In particular, Twitter, Blogs, were the most used platforms for the dissemination and discussion of our researchers' work on the pandemic in progress. Also a good results was obtained by Mendeley Readers: median of the altmetrical score of 55 (COVID) against 7 (no COVID).

Discussion

It is becoming more and more evident that alternative metrics may play a crucial role in helping society as well as patient communities to retrieve reliable information on research needs. Altmetric's data confirm their usefulness in providing real-time data on the impact on society, especially in this historical moment where was a need for rapid dissemination of virus data in both the research community and for citizen. Sharing publications have been able to travel more easily through social media. All this has also helped institutions to better understand the value of their scientific production and their diffusion in the world. Mendeley Readers² data seems to suggest that further research is required for a better understanding of the impact of Covid-19 production also on the scientific community (for example with the citation at article level) as a Mendeley Readers' data seems to suggest).

Keywords : Research Impact, Altmetrics, Covid-19, Social Media.

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