

Citation Reports show gain

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An editor can labor for years in the publication of scientific papers and never really know if the effort makes a difference. Letters to the editor are not as numerous as you might think, and it often seems that typographical errors draw more attention than the publication of new scientific findings.

Offsetting this is the fact that good clinicians are always interested in learning. But as life becomes filled with activity, and the stack of unread journals grows higher and higher, it becomes all the more important to know what types of journals you want to read. Who can you trust to deliver new and challenging information that has been tested and methodically reviewed?

To determine the Gold Standard in publications, you might try looking in the *Journal Citation Reports* (JCR). The JCR collects data and reports information on nearly 6,000 scientific publications from over 60 nations, covering virtually all specialties in science and technology. The JCR tracks how often references are cited in the current literature, indicating which journals are the largest and which are the "hottest."

To rank those in the latter category, the JCR uses a figure it calls the *impact factor*. To determine the impact factor, the JCR counts how many times the articles published in a specific journal in the two previous years are cited in the literature in a given year, divided by how many articles the journal published in those two years. The impact factor levels the playing field, allowing journals of all sizes to be compared.

How does *The Angle Orthodontist* stack up in relation to the most respected dental journals in the world? The top spots for impact factor go to general dental publications, such as the *Journal of Dental Research* and the *Critical Review of Oral Biology*. In 1995, *The Angle Orthodontist* moved up six spots (to number 25), making us the top ranking orthodontic publication in the world.

Among the excellent examples of research findings that you will want to read in this issue are four papers on Class II correction and three on maxillary expansion in adults. The two-part study of the pendulum appliance by Byloff and Darendeliler is timely for the typical clinician. After reviewing this paper you will worry less about unwanted vertical change in your patients treated with this appliance. In another paper, Ruf and Pancherz compare Herbst therapy in two groups of patients with differing skeletal relationships. They report that a hyperdivergent jaw relationship does not adversely affect the treatment result. You might also want to look over a case report by Mills and McCulloch proposing use of a modified Jasper Jumper appliance for Class II correction in the mixed dentition.

I hope you'll accept my touting of this journal's improved ranking by the JCR, realizing that our primary purpose is to bring you scientific studies of the highest quality. The fact that we continue to improve our standing based on impact factor is secondary to the effect we aspire to have on the care your patients receive.