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Increasing in the interest of myopia control

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Introduction: Myopia is the most common refractive error worldwide. In recent decades there has been a significant increase of myopic people becoming an epidemic. The consequences are serious in terms of eye health and also economically due to the risks, such as macular degeneration, retinal detachment or cataract. This makes a need to control myopia as an emerging issue.

Materials & Methods: The databases used in this bibliometric study were SCOPUS which is the largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature like scientific journals, books and conference proceedings. It covers nearly 22,000 titles from over 5,000 publishers, of which 20,000 are peer-reviewed journals in the scientific, technical, medical and social sciences (including arts and humanities). Using remote downloading techniques, articles published from 1987 (year in which continuation of papers begin) to 2015 and containing the descriptor “myopia control”, limited to the fields title, key words and/or abstract, were retrieved. The bibliometric analysis included the following indicators: Price index, duplication time and annual growth rate and Lotka’s productivity level. Once these publications were compiled, they were grouped according to the method used to control myopia. On the one hand the ones with pharmacological treatment, distinguishing between atropine and pirenzepine. On the other hand those using optical strategies, differentiating orthokeratology from other kind of contact lenses, such as multifocal. Finally works dealing with glasses to control myopia were also grouped.

Conclusions: The scientific literature on myopia control is in a phase of linear growth. The period in which more documents were collected is the three-year period from 2013 to 2015, with more than 50% of them. This shows the great scientific interest that has raised this issue in recent years. The doubling time of the literature is 6.32 years. The largest number of collected documents corresponds to strategies of myopia control by orthokeratology (35.58%) and atropine (30.77%). The lower number corresponds to glasses, with only 6.73% of the documents.

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