A PILOT STUDY TO IDENTIFY THE LEVEL OF PLAGIARISM IN THE MOST CITED ANDROLOGY RELATED ARTICLES

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INTRODUCTION

- The act of using words, data, processes or even ideas from another person without acknowledging the source or giving appropriate credit is referred to as plagiarism. It is a serious issue that could profoundly compromise the quality of a scientific publication.
- Several journals have published reviews on plagiarism, however, there is a lack of transparency on the permissible/non-permissible level of plagiarism in peer-reviewed journals. In fact, there is no report on the extent of plagiarism in andrology-related articles.
- The objective of this study was to determine the level of plagiarism in the most cited andrology articles.

EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN

- Most cited articles (n=34) listed on seven andrology journals website were analyzed for similarity index using iThenticate and Turnitin software.
- The articles were categorized based on the year (before and after 2012) and type of publication (review article vs. original research). The similarity index report was generated using both softwares and the findings were then compared.
- Articles analyzed using iThenticate were categorized based on the level of plagiarism and the incidence rate was determined using an arbitrary range for similarity index.
- The MedCalc Statistical Software was used to carry out the statistical analysis.

RESULTS

- Level of plagiarism detected by iThenticate (23.56% ± 12.46) and Turnitin (19.38% ± 11.83) were comparable with a positive correlation of 0.684 (Fig. 1).
- Analysis based on the year of publication revealed no significant difference in plagiarism content in articles published before and on/after 2012 using iThenticate as well as Turnitin (Table 1).
- Analysis based on the type of publication (review articles vs. original research articles) also revealed no significant difference in plagiarism content using iThenticate (22.69 ± 10.97 vs. 25.36 ± 15.55, P=0.8486) and Turnitin (18.87 ±11.53 vs. 20.45 ±12.94, P= 0.7025).
- The incidence rate of low, moderate, high and very high levels of plagiarism was determined to be 9%, 50%, 35%, and 6%, respectively (Table 2).

CONCLUSION

- We have established a standardized method for plagiarism analysis in published articles.
- This is the first study to provide transparency to researchers about the criteria considered in a plagiarism check.
- The level of plagiarism detected by iThenticate and Turnitin software are comparable.
- Evaluation of similarity index using iThenticate revealed moderate to high level of plagiarism in the most cited andrology articles.