

Causes and reasons for plagiarism - a medical journal experience

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Introduction

Plagiarism is one of the most serious ethics violations of scientific publication, which, discovered, especially in extensive thesis, can lead to the most severe sanctions that could lead to the end of the academic career. As editors of a scientific journal, we have frequently encountered plagiarism in various forms, which is why we have tried to evaluate the causes that determine its occurrence.

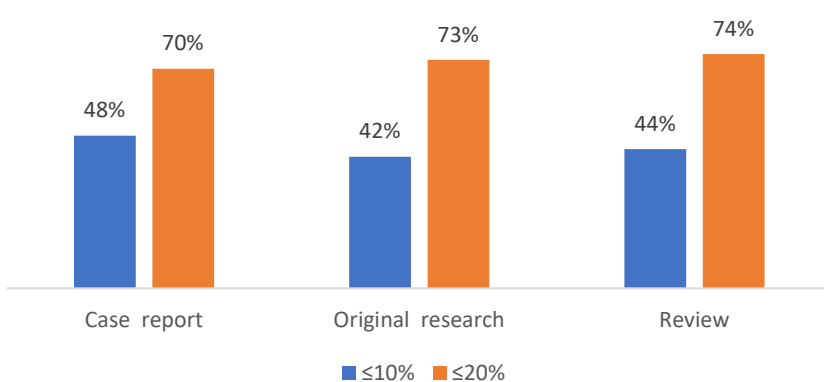
Material and Method

We evaluated both quantitatively and qualitatively, the reports from 200 articles sent for publication in our journal: *Journal of Surgical Sciences*. The reports were generated using the *PlagScan* application.

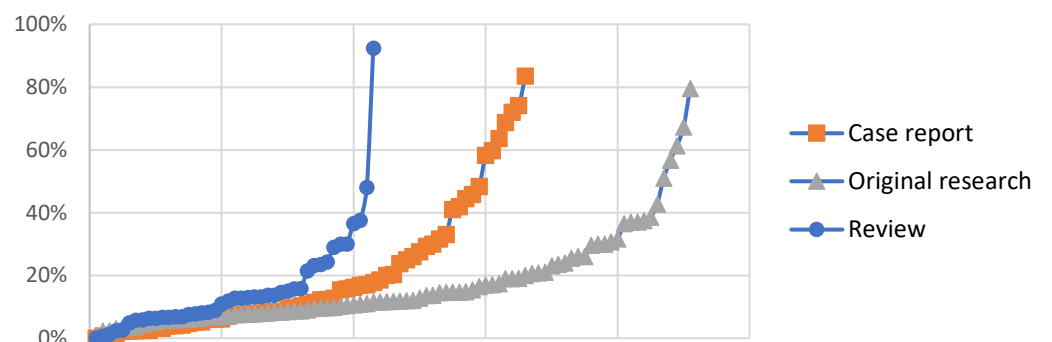
Results

- The similarity index had values between 0 and 95.9%, and 136 articles presented a value over 25%.
- A large part of the articles presents plagiarized fragments as a result of the misuse of the rules of quoting, citing and academic writing.
- Excessive repetition of expressions without the use of abbreviations or the adoption of clearly grounded definitions or notions has led to an increase in the index without the intention of plagiarism.
- Contrary to expectations, review articles recorded plagiarism rates similar to those of original articles or case reports;
- Plagiarism levels over 70% were encountered in case reports, or original articles, but not in literature reviews

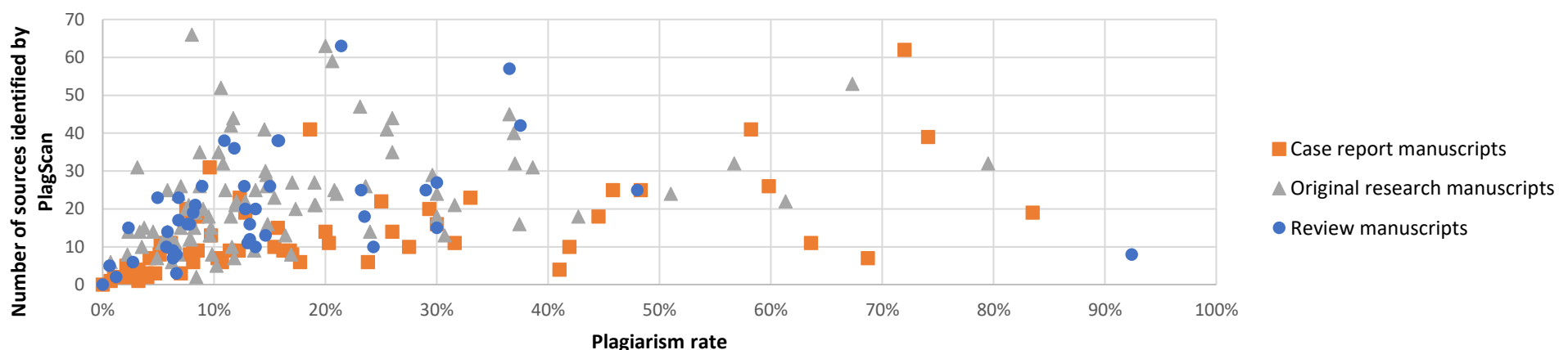
Proportion of manuscripts with lower rates of plagiarism



Plagiarism rate for each individual submitted manuscript



Correlation between plagiarism rate and the number of sources identified by PlagScan



Conclusions

- All articles with a similarity index below 20% should be evaluated qualitatively before the final decision of rejection;
- From the experience of our journal, articles with more than 30% plagiarism, usually do not reach the acceptable limit of plagiarism after revision;
- In most situations, plagiarism was due to the lack of training of researchers in academic writing, being committed without the obvious intention to commit intellectual theft.

