

EDITORIAL

EJVES, the Leading Journal in Vascular Surgery, is One of the Numerous Scientific Pillars of the ESVS

The 2018 impact factor (IF) of the *European Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery (EJVES)* is 3.642, a 6% decrease on 2017. The *EJVES* now ranks (by IF) 28 out of 203 surgical specialty journals. By comparison, the *Journal of Vascular Surgery (JVS)* has a 2018 IF of 3.243 and ranks 38, the *Journal of Endovascular Therapy (JEVT)* has an IF of 2.986 and ranks 50, while the *Annals of Vascular Surgery (AVS)* ranks 151 with an IF of 1.179. Therefore, the *EJVES* remains, for the third year in a row, the leading vascular surgery journal.

The European Society for Vascular Surgery (ESVS) Guidelines on the management of descending thoracic aortic diseases contributed the highest number of citations, followed by the ESVS Guidelines on the diseases of mesenteric arteries and veins.^{1,2} Several other ESVS Guidelines have been published recently: in 2018 (on atherosclerotic carotid and vertebral artery diseases and on vascular access); and in 2019 (on the management of aortoiliac artery aneurysms).^{3–5} Also in 2018, the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) Guidelines on peripheral artery diseases in collaboration with the ESVS were simultaneously published in the *European Heart Journal* and in the *EJVES*.⁶ In 2019, the Global Vascular Guidelines on chronic limb threatening ischaemia (CLTI), a collaboration between the ESVS, the Society for Vascular Surgery, and the World Federation of Vascular Societies, were published in the *EJVES* and in the *JVS*, and will be presented at the ESVS Annual Meeting in Hamburg.^{7,8} All these Guidelines aim at providing guidance on delivering the best possible care to our patients and are one of the educational pillars of the ESVS. To maximise their dissemination and daily use, App versions of the ESVS Guidelines are available.

Among the four other articles that contributed most to the 2018 IF, one reported the results of a meta-analysis on the risk of disease progression in peripheral arterial diseases while one was a systematic review of stroke and mortality rates after carotid artery stenting or carotid endarterectomy.^{9,10} The other two most cited papers reported on a systematic review of endovenous stenting in chronic venous disease secondary to iliac vein obstruction and on an assessment of international outcomes of intact abdominal aortic aneurysm repairs, respectively.^{11,12}

It is important to bear in mind that the IF, despite its obvious importance, may not be the most reliable indicator

of scientific quality or real impact on clinical practice, the ultimate goal of any scientific publication. As a surrogate measure, it is associated with important limitations, such as its focus on scientific “recycling” (i.e. citations) rather than clinical attention (i.e. consumption) or uptake (i.e. implementation), its (arbitrary) temporal limitation to two years following publication, and its susceptibility to manipulation (self citation). In addition, the IF does not consider the educational value of a publication even though, eventually, this might have the greatest impact of all.

The *EJVES* commits equally to high quality clinical research, basic science and vascular biology, and continued medical education.¹³ Its performance should be gauged with careful consideration of all IF limitations and pondered against alternative metrics, including assessment of different IF windows, adjustments for journal self citations and so called reader metrics.

EJVES 2018 immediacy index, a reflection of the speed by which the scientific community picks up novel findings, saw a notable jump from 0.97 (2017) to 1.78 indicating that *EJVES* articles published in 2018 were cited 1.78 times during 2018 on average. This ranks the *EJVES* 12th out of 203 Journals in surgery while leaving behind other Journals reporting cutting edge vascular surgery research (*British Journal of Surgery* 1.427; *JVS* 0.97).

Similarly, the *EJVES* five year IF has increased from 3.498 (2017) to 3.917 whereas the *JVS*, for instance, remained at 3.616 (3.477 in 2017). This indicates a sustained or even increasing recognition of the high quality research published by the *EJVES* over the past half decade. Last but not least, the IF adjusted for Journal self citations (2.915 for *EJVES* in 2018; and 2.574, 2.296 and 1.061 for *JVS*, *JEVT*, and *AVS*, respectively) suggests that the various IFs provide a realistic reflection of the standing of *EJVES* in the vascular surgery community.

Complementary measures of the actual consumption of published research (reader metrics) include Elsevier's PlumX metrics (<https://plumanalytics.com>), which investigates all items listed in Scopus, the largest database of peer review scientific literature, regarding online views, downloads, captures (book markings), mentions in conventional media and social media likes or shares. As can be seen in [Tables 1 and 2](#), among all *EJVES* contents, ESVS Clinical Guidelines and Editor's Choice articles (free access) generate the most attention in terms of social media mentions and online captures, suggesting that the clinical practice guidelines exert their expected impact within the medical community.

Table 1. Top five *European Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery* articles for social media references 2017 to July 2019

Year	Article title	Article type	Social media references
2018	Extracranial Veins in Multiple Sclerosis: Is there a Role for Vascular Surgery?	Review	227
2019	Editor's Choice – European Society for Vascular Surgery (ESVS) 2019 Clinical Practice Guidelines on the Management of Abdominal Aorto-iliac Artery Aneurysms.	Guideline	157
2019	Global Vascular Guidelines on the Management of Chronic Limb-Threatening Ischaemia.	Guideline	155
2017	Editor's Choice – Management of the Diseases of Mesenteric Arteries and Veins: Clinical Practice Guidelines of the European Society of Vascular Surgery (ESVS).	Guideline	82
2018	Editor's Choice – Mid Term Migration and Device Failure Following Endovascular Aneurysm Sealing with the Nellix Stent Graft System - a Single Centre Experience.	Article	79

Social media references include tweets and Facebook likes that reference the research. The table measures the top five articles in *Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery* from January 2017 to July 2019. Source: PlumX Metrics 2019.

Even more importantly, reader metrics have more than doubled compared with the previous years, indicating a continuous increase in *EJVES* practical use for its readership.^{14,15} Fig. 1 indicates the increasing immediate attention to *EJVES* contents within the social media (consistent with the immediacy index), whereas actual captures of contents need some years to build, but reach much higher levels (consistent with the five year IF). These parallel phenomena confirm the intended development of the *Journal* and, hopefully, indicate the success of its strategy.¹³

Should a scientific society like ESVS have “non-scientific” activities besides running the highest ranked vascular journal and having the best oral and poster presentations at the annual general meeting? Yes, we definitely should for several reasons! First, full understanding of vascular disease and its treatment will not only result in excellent vascular specialists, but will also be an eminent background for those who will develop new vascular treatments and do vascular research. Therefore, training and education, not only for vascular trainees, but for all vascular specialists, is necessary throughout our careers. This is also very important considering the fast developing technologies we work with, be it for circulating biomarkers, imaging, and/or

treatments. During the most recent years, the ESVS has developed a whole line of activities supporting this policy.

The ESVS Academy runs numerous workshops on practical aspects of open and endovascular surgery, but also on imaging, vascular medicine and understanding vascular research, designing and analysing trials including how to write scientific papers. Participation in workshops, which take place both during and outside the annual meeting, is almost free thanks to unrestricted support from the ESVS and our industrial partners. At the annual meeting in Hamburg, 60 workshops will be undertaken in addition to the new ESVS Ultrasound duplex certification.^{16,17}

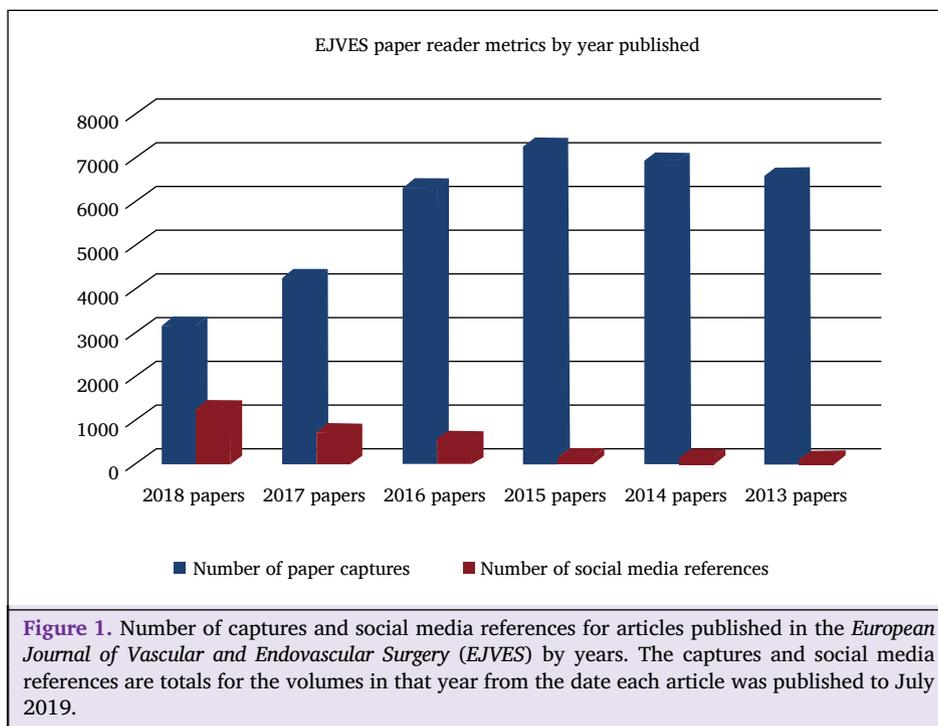
The ESVS Masterclass displays vascular procedures performed by international experts during a two day live meeting in January. The first ESVS Masterclass took place in 2019 in Hamburg and will be organised in January 2020 in Helsinki and Hamburg. All procedures are recorded and edited into short videos and are subsequently freely available for ESVS members on the website.

Educational Webinars are planned, and the first will be in September with the title: “Carotid Disease: Remaining Controversies after Recent Guidelines”. Three carotid disease experts will discuss live, and streaming of the webinar

Table 2. Top five *European Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery* articles for online captures 2017 to July 2019

Year	Article title	Article type	Captures
2018	Editor's Choice – Management of Atherosclerotic Carotid and Vertebral Artery Disease: 2017 Clinical Practice Guidelines of the European Society for Vascular Surgery (ESVS)	Guideline	224
2018	Editor's Choice – Vascular Access: 2018 Clinical Practice Guidelines of the European Society for Vascular Surgery (ESVS).	Guideline	165
2017	Editor's Choice – Management of Descending Thoracic Aorta Diseases: Clinical Practice Guidelines of the European Society for Vascular Surgery (ESVS).	Guideline	161
2019	Editor's Choice – European Society for Vascular Surgery (ESVS) 2019 Clinical Practice Guidelines on the Management of Abdominal Aorto-iliac Artery Aneurysms.	Guideline	132
2017	Editor's Choice – Management of the Diseases of Mesenteric Arteries and Veins: Clinical Practice Guidelines of the European Society of Vascular Surgery (ESVS).	Guideline	117

Captures indicate that a reader wants to return to the research and includes bookmarks, favourites, and code forks among others. The table measures the top five articles published in *European Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery* from January 2017 to July 2019. Source: PlumX Metrics 2019.



is free for ESVS members. The next webinar is planned for late autumn.

The ESVS Virtual Vascular, an e-based, comprehensive textbook of vascular disease, is being edited by prominent European vascular experts, and will be continuously updated and almost free for ESVS members.

The ESVS Spring Meeting will be the new meeting platform for basic and translational vascular science and will be held for the first time in the spring of 2020, in Stockholm. As an ESVS member, the admission fee will be considerably less than for non-members.

All these activities will strengthen the scientific components of ESVS and will contribute to the development of the science and treatments of patients suffering from vascular disease globally. That the ESVS is successful is documented by simple statistics: increasing membership, increasing attendance at the annual meeting, and a new record of submitted abstracts again this year (840), the largest for any vascular meeting globally!

We wish to conclude by inviting you to Hamburg and by expressing our thanks to all members, authors, reviewers, editorial board members, and associate editors who contribute to the quality of our Journal and our Society. This is a very rewarding journey that we are taking together.¹⁴

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