

# The Rising Importance Of Cochrane Systematic Reviews In A Latin-American Evidence-Base Journal

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## Background:

The so-called "reappraised literature" is steadily rising. Evidence-Base Journals (EBJ) are peer-reviewed publications as ACP Journal Club, Evidence-Based Medicine, Evidence-Based Nursing, and Evidence-Based Mental Health retrieve and appraise recent articles from prominent medical journals through rigorous criteria. "Evidencia" is an Evidence-Base Journal published bi-monthly, that has been produced by a Family Medicine Foundation (Fundación MF) at Argentina since 1998. As the others, this journal contains abstracts and commentaries of high-quality, methodologically sound original studies and systematic reviews.

## Objectives:

To determine the proportion of top yielding Journals and of systematic reviews abstracted in "Evidencia" along time in context with EBJ.

## Methods:

Were assessed the years 1998, 2000, 2002 and 2004. EBJ proportion was obtained from a Walker and Haynes paper<sup>1</sup>. Top Yielding Journals were: N England Journal of Medicine, JAMA, BMJ, Lancet and Cochrane Database Systematic Reviews.

**Results:** The proportion of systematic reviews abstracted has increased since "Evidencia" began publication in 1998 when reviews comprised 17% of the abstract content (EBJ 30%). By 2004 the proportion of systematic reviews was 28% (EBJ 38%). Cochrane reviews have been prominent in this growing presence of reviews. Of these reviews, Cochranes are 0% (EBJ 24%) in 1998 and 43% (EBJ 31%) in 2004. Top Yielding Journals summarized 70% (EBJ 38%) in 1998 and 64% (EBJ 55%) in 2004 (Table and Figure 1).

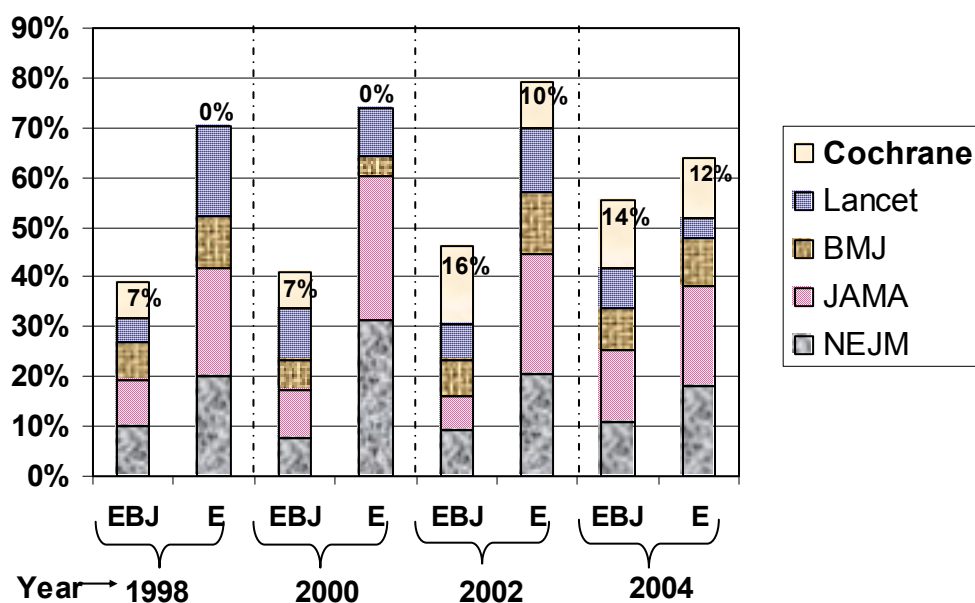
## Conclusions:

Systematic reviews, especially Cochrane ones, have grown to constitute a substantial fraction of the evidence-based literature in "Evidencia" as the other EBJ.

1. Walker C, Haynes B. The growing prominence of Cochrane systematic reviews in evidence-based resources. <http://www.cochrane.org/colloquia/abstracts/ottawa/O-021.htm>

	EBJ 1998 E		EBJ 2000 E		EBJ 2002 E		EBJ 2004 E	
	EBJ	E	EBJ	E	EBJ	E	EBJ	E
<b>NEJM</b>	9.9%	20.2%	7.5%	31.5%	9.2%	20.6%	10.7%	18.0%
<b>JAMA</b>	9.2%	21.4%	9.9%	28.8%	6.8%	23.8%	14.8%	20.0%
<b>BMJ</b>	8.0%	10.7%	6.0%	4.1%	7.5%	12.7%	8.3%	10.0%
<b>Lancet</b>	4.8%	17.9%	10.4%	9.6%	7.0%	12.7%	8.0%	4.0%
<b>Cochrane</b>	7.0%	0.0%	7.2%	0.0%	15.7%	9.5%	13.5%	12.0%
<b>Others</b>	61.1%	29.8%	59.0%	26.0%	53.8%	20.7%	44.7%	36.0%

**Figure 1. Proportion of abstract contents of Evidence Base Journals (EBJ) & "Evidencia"(E)**



**Table 1. Abstracts contents of Evidence-Base Journals (EBJ) and EVIDENCIA (E) for 1998, 2000, 2002, and 2004**

Journals	Proportion of the abstracts contents (%)							
	1998		2000		2002		2004	
	EBJ	E	EBJ	E	EBJ	E	EBJ	E
N England Journal of Medicine	9.9	20.2	7.5	31.5	9.2	20.6	10.7	18
JAMA	9.2	21.4	9.9	28.8	6.8	23.8	14.8	20
BMJ	8	10.7	6	4.1	7.5	12.7	8.3	10
Lancet	4.8	17.9	10.4	9.6	7	12.7	8	4
Cochrane Systematic Reviews	7	0	7.2	0	15.7	9.5	13.5	12
Total →	38.9%	70.2%	41.0%	74.0%	46.2%	79.3%	55.3%	64.0%