

The core journals that publish randomised controlled trials of physiotherapy interventions

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This study identified the core journals that publish randomised controlled trials evaluating physiotherapy interventions. All trials indexed on the Physiotherapy Evidence Database (PEDro) were analysed. Journals with at least 80 trials were listed. The journals were ranked by: (1) number of trials published; (2) mean total PEDro score regardless of publication year; (3) mean total PEDro score in 2000 to 2009; and (4) 2008 Impact Factor of the journal. The top five core journals in physiotherapy, ranked by the total number of trials published, were *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, *Clinical Rehabilitation*, *Spine*, *BMJ*, and *Chest*. When the mean total PEDro score was used as the criterion, the top five ranked journals were *Journal of Physiotherapy*, *JAMA*, *Stroke*, *Spine*, and *Clinical Rehabilitation*. When the mean total PEDro score of the trials published in the period 2000 to 2009 was used, the top five ranked journals were *Journal of Physiotherapy*, *JAMA*, *Lancet*, *BMJ*, and *Pain*. Lastly, when 2008 Impact Factor was used for ranking the top five journals were *JAMA*, *Lancet*, *BMJ*, *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*, and *Thorax*. There was not a significant relationship between rankings based on trial quality, number of trials, and journal Impact Factor. Physiotherapists who are trying to keep up to date by reading the best available evidence on the effects of physiotherapy interventions have to read more broadly than physiotherapy-specific journals. Readers of physiotherapy trials should be aware that high-quality trials are not necessarily published in journals with high impact factors.