

4. Moorthy PS, McGuirk SP, Jones TJ, Brawn WJ, Barron DJ. Damus-Rastelli procedure for biventricular repair of aortic atresia and hypoplasia. *Ann Thorac Surg*. 2007;84:142–6.
5. Hickey EJ, Caldarone CA, Blackstone EH, Williams WG, Yeh T, Pizarro C, et al. Biventricular strategies for neonatal critical aortic stenosis: high mortality associated with early intervention. *J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg*. 2012;144:409–17.
6. Lofland GK, McCrindle BW, Williams WG, Blackstone EH, Tchervenkov CI, Sittiwangkul R, et al. Critical aortic stenosis in the neonate: a multi-institutional study of management, outcomes and risk factors. *Congenital Heart Surgeons Society. J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg*. 2001;121:10–27.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.rec.2014.10.013>

## Fate of Original Articles Rejected by *Revista Española de Cardiología*



### Destino de los artículos originales rechazados en REVISTA ESPAÑOLA DE CARDIOLOGÍA

#### To the Editor,

A crucial phase in the editorial process of a scientific article is its review by a panel of peers,<sup>1,2</sup> who analyze its quality and provide constructive criticism to enable the authors to improve the manuscript. Their opinions aid the editor in making a decision on the article's suitability for publication. The objective of this study was to analyze the final destination of original articles rejected by *Revista Española de Cardiología* (Rev Esp Cardiol).

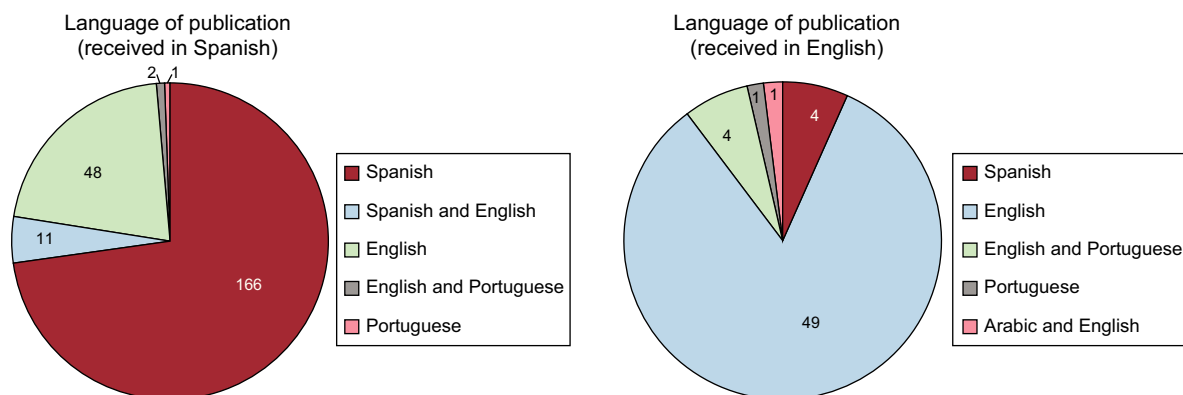
We accessed the database of the online submission and review system of *Revista Española de Cardiología*<sup>3</sup> to compile a list of the 650 original articles rejected over the 4-year period between 1 January 2007 and 31 December 2010. The following data were collected for each article: manuscript reference number, title, authors, type of article, rejection date, article version (number), language, and country of origin (or, in the absence of the latter datum, that of the corresponding author). The resulting list was distributed equally among 8 members of the editorial board of Rev Esp Cardiol, who carried out the corresponding searches in the literature published up to March 2014.

The literature searches were performed in accordance with the following indications: a) to access the PubMed database and copy the title of the article in English; b) if the search failed to yield results, to use the surname and initial(s) of the corresponding author of the article; c) if there were still no results with the preceding measure, and the corresponding and first authors were not the same person, to repeat the search using the surname and initial(s) of the first author. When the search produced results that coincided with a published article, the following information was

recorded in a new database: journal, the year the paper edition was printed, date accepted, impact factor assigned to the journal by Journal Citation Reports for the year the article was published, type of article, language, and names of the first and corresponding authors. A positive result was defined as that in which the methodology of the abstract of the article coincided with that of the publication found, regardless of the type of article finally published, except in the case of communications and posters presented at congresses, which were not taken into account. In a second phase, 2 members of the board reviewed the articles one-by-one to fill in all the empty or incomplete boxes. Finally, the information for those articles not producing results in the PubMed search was introduced into Google.com, following steps a, b, and c, as described above.

During the study period, Rev Esp Cardiol rejected 650 original articles (102 in 2007, 142 in 2009, and 214 in 2010). Of the 650 rejected original articles, 96% were in the original version, 3.4% had been revised for the first time, and 0.6% had been revised for the second time. Regarding the language of manuscript submission, 80.9% were in Spanish and 19.1% in English. The rejected articles, in descending order of frequency, were sent from Spain, Argentina, Mexico, China, Brazil, Cuba, and Chile.

As of March 2014, of these 650 articles, a total of 287 (44.1% of all rejected papers) have been published. They have been distributed in different article types (in some cases, not comparable from one journal to another), but most (79.4%) retained the format as the initial version. Sixty-five with five percent of these articles were published within 2 years after their rejection by Rev Esp Cardiol. They appeared in 140 different journals, and 36% of the manuscripts were concentrated in 10 journals (9 of which publish in Spanish, whereas the remaining journal publishes only in English). The 5 journals in which these articles most frequently appeared were *Medicina Clínica* (32 articles), *Revista Clínica Española* (13 articles), *Revista Médica de Chile* (10 articles), *International Journal of Cardiology* (10 articles), and *Atención*



Of the 228 rejected articles received in Spanish for consideration by Rev Esp Cardiol, 166 (65.6%) were published in Spanish, 48 were published exclusively in English, 11 in Spanish and English, 2 in English and Portuguese, and 1 exclusively in Portuguese.

Of the 59 rejected articles received in English for consideration by Rev Esp Cardiol, 49 (83%) were published in English, 4 were published exclusively in Spanish, 4 in English and Portuguese, 1 exclusively in Portuguese, and 1 in Arabic and English.

**Figure.** Publication language of the 287 rejected articles subsequently published in other journals.

*Primaria* (9 articles). Fifty-seven percent were published in journals with an impact factor; 7% (n = 20) were published in journals with an impact factor higher than 3, according to *Journal Citation Reports* for the year in which each article appeared (the most frequently cited was *International Journal of Cardiology*, with 10 articles, 6 of them originals). The language of publication for the rejected articles is shown in the [Figure](#). In one highly interesting case, a rejected article was submitted simultaneously to Rev Esp Cardiol and another journal, in which it was finally published. In addition, among the rejected articles not published elsewhere, there were 5 in which the attempt to publish could be considered redundant, reflecting one of the most common ethical problems faced by this editorial board in recent years.<sup>4,5</sup>

From our analysis, we can conclude that over half of the original articles rejected by Rev Esp Cardiol remained unpublished for the first 3 years after the rejection. Of the remainder that were finally published, most appeared in journals with an impact factor and publish predominantly in Spanish.

#### Acknowledgements

All the editors of Rev Esp Cardiol wish to thank Eva Cardenal, María González, Belén Juan, and Iria del Río for their invaluable help in preparing this article.

Pablo Avanzas,<sup>a,\*</sup> Antoni Bayes-Genis,<sup>a</sup> Leopoldo Pérez de Isla,<sup>a</sup> Juan Sanchis,<sup>b</sup> and Magda Heras<sup>c,†</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Associate Editor, *Revista Española de Cardiología*

<sup>b</sup>Editor-in-Chief, *Revista Española de Cardiología*

<sup>c</sup>Former Editor, *Revista Española de Cardiología*

\*Corresponding author:

E-mail address: [rec@revespcardiol.org](mailto:rec@revespcardiol.org) (P. Avanzas).

Available online 3 February 2015

#### REFERENCES

1. Kassirer JP, Campion EW. Peer review: crude and understudied, but indispensable. *JAMA*. 1994;272:96–7.
2. Ingelfinger FJ. Peer review in biomedical publication. *Am J Med*. 1974;56:686–92.
3. Base de datos del sistema de gestión electrónica de manuscritos de Rev Esp Cardiol. Available at: <https://ees.elsevier.com/rec/>
4. Avanzas P, Bayes-Genis A, Pérez de Isla L, Sanchis J, Heras M. Consideraciones éticas de la publicación de artículos científicos. *Rev Esp Cardiol*. 2011;64:427–9.
5. Alfonso F, Bermejo J, Segovia J. Publicación duplicada o redundante: ¿podemos permitirnoslo? *Rev Esp Cardiol*. 2005;58:601–4.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.rec.2014.11.010>