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# A Survey of Article Types in the Dermatology Literature

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### BACKGROUND

- Over 30,000 scientific journals currently exist, with >100 primarily treating topics in dermatology.<sup>1,2</sup>
- Each journal includes a specific set of guidelines for authors as to which types of articles are accepted for publication.
- The variation in dermatology journals poses a challenge for authors, as well as for editors determining submission categories to attract diverse dermatology content.

### OBJECTIVE

- To address this issue, we collected data on the article types accepted by all 142 dermatology journals listed in Scimago for 2018 (retrieved January 28, 2020), where two independent reviewers searched the author guidelines websites of each journal and recorded the article types published. When article types were unclear, a journal editor was contacted for information, or Google Translate (translate.google.com) was used for non-English sites.

### MATERIALS & METHODS

- Data was classified into several main categories by clustering on key terms such as “original”, “review”, and “case” and subsequently verified by individual quality control and further inspection if the two initial reviewers did not agree.
- The number of journals was totaled for the 7 observed categories. For the top 10 dermatology-related journals by h-index for 2018, two independent reviewers also examined the table of contents for each 2018 journal issue to determine the total number of published articles by type.

### REFERENCES

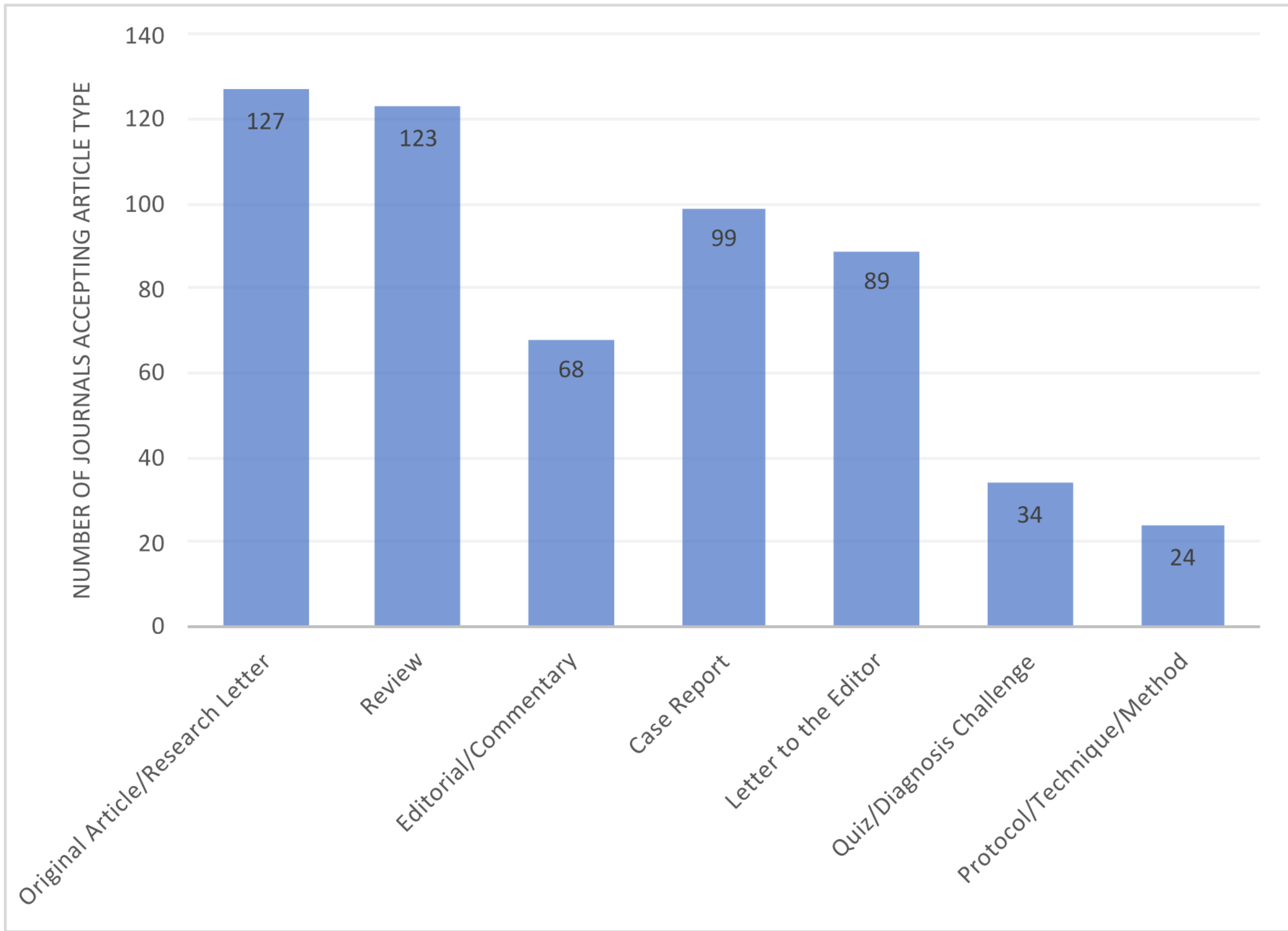
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### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & DISCLOSURES

- Conflict of Interest: Dr. Dellavalle is a Joint Coordinating Editor for Cochrane Skin, a dermatology section editor for UpToDate, a Social Media Editor for the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology (JAAD), a Podcast Editor for the Journal of Investigative Dermatology (JID), Editor-in-Chief of the JMIR Dermatology, and is a coordinating editor representative on Cochrane Council.
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### RESULTS

#### 1. Article Types



**Figure 1. Number of Dermatology Journals Publishing the 7 Most Common Observed Article Types (Scimago 2018 N = 142).**

- A frequency distribution of dermatology journals publishing each article category is summarized.
- Out of the 142 journals, a vast majority allow original articles and research letters (127, 89%), followed by review articles (123, 87%), and case reports (99, 70%).
- Diagnosis challenge and quiz-format submissions (34, 24%) and clearly defined protocol, technique, or methods papers (24, 17%) were the least commonly allowed categories.
- Journals also occasionally published meeting proceedings or special materials, such as history of dermatology articles or artistic submissions.

#### 2. Top 10 Journals

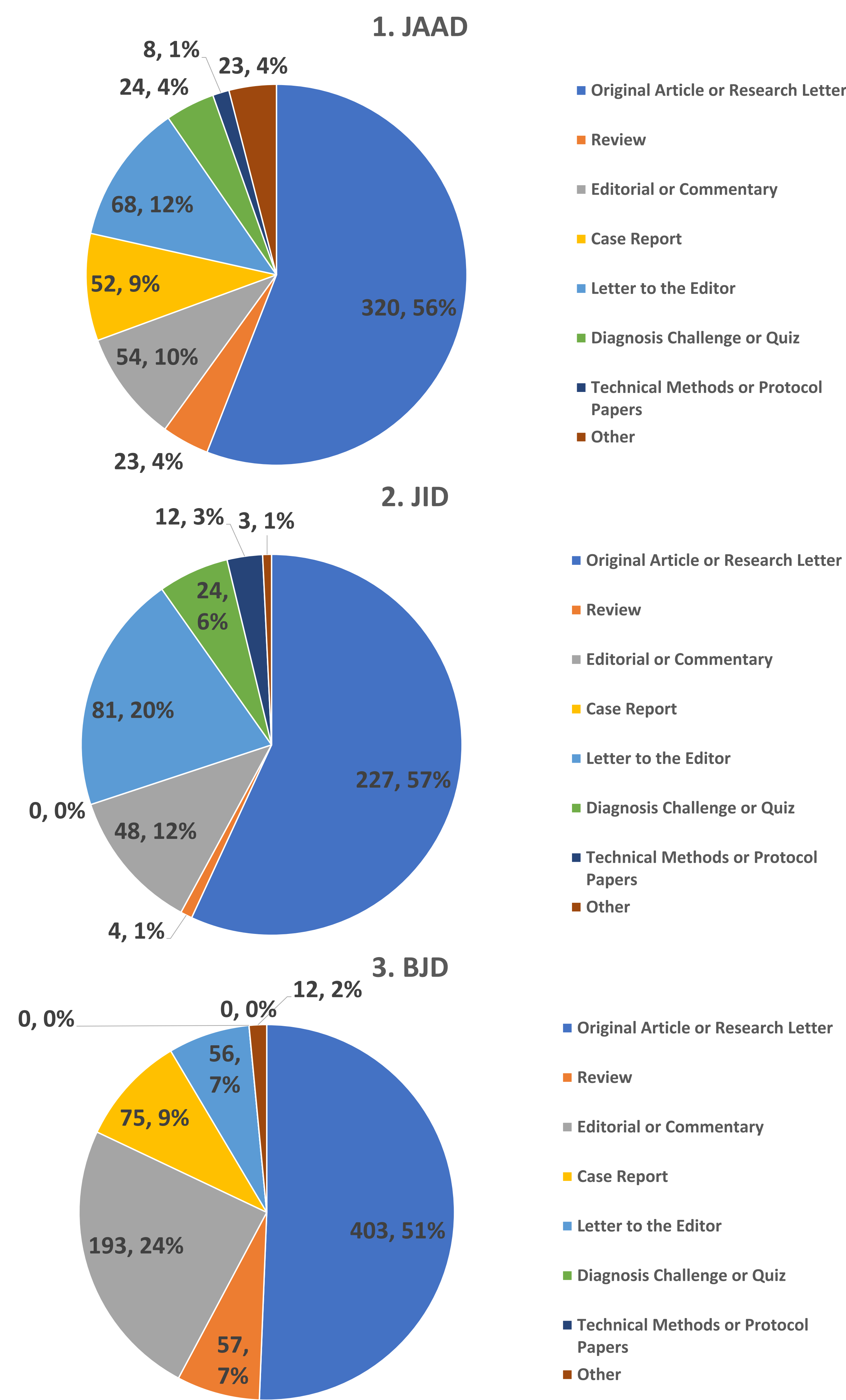
h-index Rank	Dermatology Journal	# of Articles	Original Article or Research Letter	Review	Editorial or Commentary	Case Report	Letter to the Editor	Diagnosis Challenge or Quiz	Technical Methods or Protocol Papers	Other
1	Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology	# of Articles	320	23	54	52	68	24	8	23
		% of Total	56%	4%	9%	9%	12%	4%	1%	4%
2	Journal of Investigative Dermatology	# of Articles	227	4	48	0	81	24	12	3
		% of Total	57%	1%	12%	0%	20%	6%	3%	1%
3	British Journal of Dermatology	# of Articles	403	57	193	75	56	0	0	12
		% of Total	51%	7%	24%	9%	7%	0%	0%	2%
4	JAMA Dermatology	# of Articles	151	4	45	54	34	36	0	44
		% of Total	41%	1%	12%	15%	9%	10%	0%	12%
5	Dermatologic Surgery	# of Articles	271	20	0	26	18	0	0	5
		% of Total	80%	6%	0%	8%	5%	0%	0%	1%
6	Lasers in Surgery and Medicine	# of Articles	106	1	1	2	3	0	0	1
		% of Total	93%	1%	1%	2%	3%	0%	0%	1%
7	Sexually Transmitted Diseases	# of Articles	102	5	27	0	16	0	0	0
		% of Total	68%	3%	18%	0%	11%	0%	0%	0%
8	Wound Repair and Regeneration	# of Articles	44	1	1	0	2	0	3	1
		% of Total	85%	2%	2%	0%	4%	0%	6%	2%
9	Pigment Cell and Melanoma Research	# of Articles	47	6	14	0	7	0	1	0
		% of Total	63%	8%	19%	0%	9%	0%	1%	0%
10	Journal of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology	# of Articles	221	46	42	276	31	0	0	13
		% of Total	35%	7%	7%	44%	5%	0%	0%	2%

**Table 1. Number and Proportions of Each Article Type Published in the Top 10 Dermatology Journals for 2018 by h-index.**

- The 2018 issues of the top 10 dermatology journals by h-index yielded mainly original articles or research letters, which was the most common category for 9/10 journals, ranging from 41% to 93% of total journal content, including the top journal, the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology (56%).
- Notably, the Journal of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology favored case reports (44%) over original articles (35%).

### RESULTS

#### 3. Journal Breakdown



### SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS

- We face a potential limitation in assuming that 2018 journal issues and article categories represented a typical year for dermatology publishing.
- Due to the sheer number of articles, for the top-ranked journal analysis we expeditiously determined article type only by the issue’s table of contents.
- Furthermore, only Scimago-indexed dermatology journals were considered, while many other metrics exist for evaluating journal influence.<sup>3</sup>
- Nevertheless, our study provides valuable insight into a wide spectrum of dermatology article types, as well as the types favored for publication by particular journals, laying the groundwork for future analysis as new journal editors have opportunities to shape dermatology research and discourse.