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TREND OF PAPER RETRACTION IN PUBMED

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Trend of paper retraction in PubMed

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1) Description of Project:

International communication has been significantly increased over the last decades due to widespread use of the internet and different websites. Reviewers' comments, website posts or nonscientific media may start or spread rumors of possible misconduct. Editors must objectively face the concerns and investigate the allegations. But retracting a paper without a full investigation can unjustly destroy the authors' credibility and careers. However, delaying retraction lends a paper credibility that it may no longer deserve (1).

In the last decades the awareness of retracted papers has significantly increased. Weekly emails inform on retractions and reason for retractions. However no specific information on number, time to retraction and reason to retraction has been published. From short review of the literature I hypothesize that the number of retracted papers has significantly increased over the years. In addition the time to retraction has decreased over the last decades. However the reason for retractions over the decades is not known.

2) Statement explaining the goal (what are you trying to show):

The goal of this project is to describe the trend of paper retraction in PubMed. We will analyze number of retractions, time to retractions and main reasons for retraction, comparing the results in different years.

3) Statement explaining the methodologies (how are you planning to put this together):

To perform a PubMed search on retracted articles. The search will start in 1959 until December 2016. To compare the number of papers retracted per year and time (in months) to retraction. To analyze the different reasons for paper retraction over the years through retraction notice. The different thematic will be grouped together to allow a comparison over the years.