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The Good, the Bad, and the Cite-Able: Study Quality and Statistical Significance as Predictors of Study Citation Rates

The frequency with which an academic article is cited is a marker of its contribution to the literature. Both higher quality studies and those reporting significant results tend to be cited more frequently in the literature compared to lower quality studies or those with null findings. We will evaluate the relative contributions of study quality, reported statistical significance, and agreement with field consensus (based on published meta-analyses) on citation frequency for studies cited in a sample of Cochrane meta-analyses. The impact of these factors on the frequency of citations may indicate potential biases in how authors evaluate the literature.