

# Download hit list for articles published in the Netherlands Journal of Medicine in 2005

Editorial Board, The Netherlands Journal of Medicine

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*The Netherlands Journal of Medicine* is on the move. Slowly, we have entered the electronic age. First, we opened up our windows and made the complete content of the Journal available to everyone who is interested.<sup>1</sup> All issues from January 2002 onwards are available online at [www.njmonline.nl](http://www.njmonline.nl) and it is possible to access individual articles via NLM's PubMed ([www.pubmed.gov](http://www.pubmed.gov)). As a further step, we implemented an online submission system, (<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/nethjmed>) in order to streamline the submission process. This has been greatly successful as the number of submissions has increased sharply. For prospective authors this means that competition will be stiffer and that it will be harder to get into the Journal. On the other hand, this will increase the quality of the content of the Journal. On balance we think that this is a positive development, which will benefit the readers of the Journal.

We, as Editorial Board, are also curious whether and to what extent our readers access the online content of the Journal. Therefore, we analysed the number of downloads for articles that were published in 2005. We believe that our analysis serves several goals. First, it informs us which types of papers (i.e. reviews, case reports) are the most popular and it also gauges which subject areas enjoy popularity among readers. This might influence the path we are taking as Editorial Board. Next, it has been suggested that the number of downloads correlates with the number of citations in subsequent years.<sup>2</sup> As such, the number of downloads is a potentially useful measure of the scientific value of a paper. Also, download requests can be regarded as a highly dynamic measure as it is a direct reflection of immediate research interest rather than citation measurement which only comes to light years after publication of the article.<sup>3</sup> Lastly, everybody likes a pat on the back and the list serves as a tribute to those authors who made it to the list. Our analysis has some inherent limitations. The analysis of our user log file is a rather crude measure as we cannot exclude counts

that arise from multiple accesses to the same page by the same person. Furthermore, hits by search machines such as Google generate counts that have not been excluded. Lastly, page views alone may not be an accurate measure of user interest or user perceived quality and usefulness of accessed pages.

Table 1 depicts the first ten most accessed articles. We only adopted the open access model in August 2005 and the analysing software came into place in November 2005,

**Table 1.** Top 10 of downloaded articles accessed between 22 November 2005 and 10 August 2006

Rank	Title	Reference	Hits
1	Psoas abscess: report of a series and review of the literature	4	1067
2	Mediastinal mass	5	473
3	ANCA seropositivity in HIV: a serological pitfall	6	407
4	Establishment of reference values for endocrine tests. Part IV: Adrenal insufficiency	7	402
5	A severe (type II) hepatopulmonary syndrome in a patient with idiopathic portal hypertension and treatment with paroxetine	8	402
6	Idiopathic focal segmental glomerulosclerosis: a favourable prognosis in untreated patients?	9	382
7	Cytokines and biotrauma in ventilator-induced lung injury: a critical review of the literature	10	371
8	Reverse epidemiology of blood pressure in dialysis patients: implications for treatment?	11	367
9	<i>Helicobacter pylori</i> , obesity and gastro-oesophageal reflux disease. Is there a relation? A personal view	12	352
10	Reverse epidemiology: paradoxical observations in haemodialysis patients	13	347

so only downloads after this date are counted. As a consequence articles published in the autumn of 2005 enjoy a head start. There are three reviews, three case reports, two editorials, one original article and, much to our delight, one photo quiz among the most downloaded papers. As you can see it is topped by a case series from Van den Berge *et al.* This article gives clinical details of a series of twelve patients with a psoas abscess and gives an overview on the causes of this disorder.<sup>4</sup> Over the last months this paper was accessed over 1000 times, which is considerable. The photo quiz on mediastinal mass by Monteban-Kooistra and colleagues follows. This paper deals with an atypical presentation of a pancreatic pseudocyst, which happened to be located in the posterior mediastinum.<sup>5</sup> Jansen and colleagues' paper on a false-positive ANCA again hits our headlines.<sup>6</sup> This article won the NJM award for the best case report in 2005, and most deservedly so.

The subjects covered by our highest download list are diverse and range from endocrinology, nephrology to gastroenterology, thus representing the broad interest of our readers.

As a service to our readership and authors, from 1 January 2007 onwards, we will start publishing a monthly list of top downloads from the issue of the preceding month. We hope that you will appreciate this feature in the Journal.

## REFERENCES

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I thought Professor Drenth  
would spell this as  
HIDS not HITS...

