

Impact Factor for Journals Specializing in Dental Anesthesiology

Impact factor (IF) is a quantitative measure of academic journal importance provided annually by Journal Citation Reports (Clarivate Analytics). Per the Clarivate website, the IF is calculated by “dividing the number of citations in the *Journal Citation Reports* year (the numerator) by the total number of citable items published in the two previous years (the denominator).”¹ In other words, IF is the average number of citations per year for articles published in a journal over the previous 2 years (Figure). It is important to note that for a journal to be assigned an IF, it must be included in the Web of Science by Clarivate Analytics.

IF is an indicator of a journal’s relevance; a journal with a high calculated IF is generally considered to have high value, and the articles published in it are also considered to have a high value. Although journals with higher IFs likely have an advantage of being read by more researchers in the same field, it is meaningless to compare IFs for journals from different fields with different populations of researchers. This is like trying to compare the economic wealth of individual countries based on their gross domestic product without taking into consideration population differences.

However, despite much criticism, many academic institutions and research facilities still use IF as a component of personnel performance evaluations. This trend is particularly prominent in Asia, which leads to researchers seeking to publish in journals that have IFs over those that do not. Currently, there are 3 journals published by academic societies specializing in dental anesthesiology, but unfortunately, none of them have obtained an IF (Table). Therefore, even if a scientific article or case report that contains useful information directly related to dental anesthesiology is prepared and published after much effort in one of these journals that currently lack an IF, it may not be well received by scientists in other fields of study.

Anesthesia Progress is the oldest and most prestigious of the 3 journals specializing in dental anesthesiology. It has published many high-quality articles directly related to dental anesthesiology. It is our sincere desire that *Anesthesia Progress* obtain an IF, not only for the journal itself but also for the articles published. By extension, this would also benefit researchers specializing in dental anesthesiology to be

legitimately recognized by other external researchers. We are convinced that obtaining an IF will stimulate meaningful research directly related to dental anesthesiology and ultimately lead to further scientific and clinical developments in dental anesthesiology. Above all, it will encourage researchers specializing in dental anesthesiology.

As mentioned above, the IF is calculated based on 3 years of data from journals included in the Web of Science, so newly included journals will not receive an IF for the first 3 years. Therefore, even if a journal takes action in 2024, the IF will not be calculated and assigned until 2027 (announced as an IF for 2026). First, the journal should apply for inclusion in the Web of Science. After acceptance, a more sophisticated peer-review process should be conducted for the next 3 years. Then, articles should be opened for free access simultaneously with publication. By following these steps, we anticipate that *Anesthesia Progress* should be expected to obtain an IF and become a more prestigious journal not only within dental anesthesiology and dentistry but also within all medical fields.

For the further development of dental anesthesiology worldwide and for the benefit of future dental anesthesiologists and researchers specializing in dental anesthesiology, we urge Dr Kyle J. Kramer, editor-in-chief of *Anesthesia Progress*, to consider obtaining an IF for the journal.

Comment from editor: I thank the authors for their submitted commentary detailing why *Anesthesia Progress* should obtain an Impact Factor. On behalf of the journal’s editorial board and the American Dental Society of Anesthesiology Board of Directors, I am happy to report that we agree with the authors’ recommendation and are taking steps toward working to accomplish that goal. Further details will be shared with the journal’s readership as they become available.

Takuro Sanuki, DDS, PhD¹,
Shota Tsukimoto, DDS, PhD²,
Hidetaka Kuroda, DDS, PhD²,
and Kanta Kido, DDS, PhD³

¹Professor and Chair, Department of Dental Anesthesiology, Kanagawa Dental University

²Associate Professor, Department of Dental Anesthesiology, Kanagawa Dental University

³Professor and Chair, Department of Dental Anesthesiology, Hokkaido University

Received April 2, 2023; accepted for publication December 21, 2023.

Address correspondence to Dr Takuro Sanuki, Department of Dental Anesthesiology, Kanagawa Dental University, 1-23 Ogawa-cho, Yokosuka, Kanagawa, 2388570, Japan; sanuki@kdu.ac.jp.

Anesth Prog 71:99–100 2024 | DOI 10.2344/563377

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1. Clarivate. Journal Citation Reports: Documents Types Included in the Impact Factor Calculation. Accessed January 4, 2024. https://support.clarivate.com/ScientificandAcademicResearch/s/article/Journal-Citation-Reports-Document-Types-Included-in-the-Impact-Factor-Calculation?language=en_US

Figure. Impact Factor Calculation Example

$$\text{Impact factor for 2026} = \frac{\text{Total count in 2026 of cited articles published in the journal from 2024 and 2025}}{\text{Total count of possible citable articles published in the journal from 2024 and 2025}}$$

Impact factor is calculated by “dividing the number of citations in the *Journal Citation Reports* year (the numerator) by the total number of citable items published in the two previous years (the denominator).”¹

Table. Journals Published by Academic Societies Specializing in Dental Anesthesiology

<i>Journal title</i>	<i>Academic society issuing the journal</i>	<i>Annual issues, No.</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>Impact factor</i>
<i>Anesthesia Progress</i>	American Dental Society of Anesthesiology	4	English	Not obtained
<i>Journal of Dental Anesthesia and Pain Medicine</i>	Korean Dental Society of Anesthesiology	6	English	Not obtained
<i>Journal of Japanese Dental Society of Anesthesiology</i>	Japanese Dental Society of Anesthesiology	4	Japanese	Not obtained