

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

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Source of financing: Self-financed.

Conflict of interest: None.

Ethical considerations: The information is public and there was no contact with humans or animals.

Statement of use of artificial intelligence: The present research did not use any artificial intelligence technology in the planning, design, or execution phase of the project.

Received: 17 June 2024

Accepted: 21 September 2024

Online publication: 3 December 2024

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Cite as: Cabanillas-Lazo M, Castañeda-Pérez M. Bibliometric analysis of The Peruvian Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics during the period 2018-2024. *Rev peru ginecol obstet.* 2024;70(4). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31403/rpgo.v70i2685>

# Bibliometric analysis of The Peruvian Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics during the period 2018-2024

## Análisis bibliométrico de la Revista Peruana de Ginecología y Obstetricia durante el periodo 2018-2024

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31403/rpgo.v70i2685>

### ABSTRACT

**Objectives:** To perform a bibliometric analysis of The Peruvian Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics (PJGO) during the period 2018-2024. **Materials and methods:** Bibliometric study in which all publications between 2018-2024 extracted from the Scopus database were included. The number of publications, the most productive institutions, the type of collaboration, the most productive countries, the most cited articles and the authors with the highest academic production were used as bibliographic indicators. These were exported to the Scival and Bibliometrix 4.2.1 platform for analysis. VosViewer program (version 1.6.10) was used to evaluate co-citations between the PJGO and other journals indexed in Scopus. **Results:** A total of 397 papers published in the PJGO by 758 authors were collected, with a total of 208 citations (0.53 citations per paper). Most of the publications had national collaboration and single authorship (122 papers). The Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos was the institution with the highest number of papers produced with 88 articles. Regarding the country of affiliation Peru, Venezuela, Spain and Colombia led the list. **Conclusions:** The Peruvian Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics is a journal of Latin American relevance and with a growing national and international collaboration in the field of reproductive health.

**Key words:** Bibliometrics, Gynecology, Obstetrics, Journal impact factor, Publications, Peru

### RESUMEN

**Objetivos.** Realizar un análisis bibliométrico de la Revista Peruana de Ginecología y Obstetricia durante el periodo 2018-2024. **Materiales y métodos.** Estudio bibliométrico en el que se incluyeron todas las publicaciones entre 2018 y 2024 extraídas de la base de datos Scopus. El número de publicaciones, las instituciones más productivas, el tipo de colaboración, los países más productivos, los artículos más citados y los autores con la mayor producción académica fueron utilizados como indicadores bibliográficos. Estos fueron exportados a la plataforma Scival y Bibliometrix 4.2.1 para su análisis. Se usó el programa VosViewer (versión 1.6.10) para evaluar las co-citaciones entre la RPGO y otras revistas indexadas en Scopus. **Resultados.** Se recopiló un total de 397 documentos publicados en la RPGO por 758 autores, con un total de 208 citas (0,53 citas por documento). La mayoría de las publicaciones tuvieron colaboración nacional y autoría única (122 documentos). La Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos fue la institución con mayor cantidad de producción con 88 artículos. En cuanto al país de la filiación de los autores, Perú, Venezuela, España y Colombia lideraron la lista. **Conclusiones.** La Revista Peruana de Ginecología y Obstetricia (RPGO) es una revista de relevancia latinoamericana y con una creciente colaboración nacional e internacional en el ámbito de la salud reproductiva.

**Palabras clave.** Bibliometría, Ginecología, Obstetricia, Factor de impacto de la Revista, Publicaciones, Perú

### INTRODUCTION

The Revista Peruana de Ginecología y Obstetricia (RPGO) is one of the most referential publications in the field of women's health in Peru, with an important trajectory of more than 60 years as the official journal of the Sociedad Peruana de Obstetricia y Ginecología. The RPGO has established itself as a model for health professionals related to the area, developing health policies and continuing education programs<sup>(1)</sup>.



The RPGO publishes peer-reviewed articles on a quarterly basis. These articles address topics in reproductive health, international public health and interprofessional practice, providing content relevant to advances in gynecology and obstetrics. In recent years, the journal has expanded its visibility by adopting digital platforms. This approach has improved access to and dissemination of its content<sup>(1-3)</sup>.

RPGO is recognized as one of the leading journals in the specialty, both in Latin American and Peru. Some of its most outstanding publications include reviews on cervical cancer prevention, management of preeclampsia, and antibiotic use in pregnant women with comorbidities<sup>(4,5)</sup>. In addition, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the journal published relevant articles on prenatal care and adaptations in safety protocols<sup>(6)</sup>.

In the context of scientific production analysis, bibliometric studies are valuable tools. These studies allow the productivity of an institution or journal to be examined, providing a comprehensive view that guides the development of future research<sup>(2,7)</sup>. Despite the importance of the RPGO, no bibliometric study analyzing its productivity has been published to date. Therefore, this essay aims to carry out a bibliometric analysis of the articles registered between 2018 and 2024 in the RPGO, in order to identify trends and areas of interest in obstetrics and gynecology research.

## METHODS

A bibliometric study was conducted that evaluated all publications in the Revista Peruana de Ginecología y Obstetricia (RPGO) between 2018 and 2024. The study article population included all papers collected during that period. To obtain these documents, the Scopus database (available at: <https://www.scopus.com/>) was used, selected for its broad coverage of articles and indexed journals, in addition to its ability to integrate both international and national data, surpassing other databases in terms of scope and relevance.

The search in Scopus was performed using Boolean operators "OR" and "AND" together with the electronic ISSN of the RPGO (2304-5132)<sup>(7)</sup>.

The final search strategy was:

ISSN ( 2304-5132 ) AND ( LIMIT-TO ( PUBYEAR , 2018 ) OR LIMIT-TO ( PUBYEAR , 2019 ) OR LIMIT-TO ( PUBYEAR , 2020 ) OR LIMIT-TO ( PUBYEAR , 2021 ) OR LIMIT-TO ( PUBYEAR , 2022 ) OR LIMIT-TO ( PUBYEAR , 2023 ) OR LIMIT-TO ( PUBYEAR , 2024 ) )

Once the search strategy was applied, the data were downloaded in .csv format from Scopus and exported to Microsoft Excel for subsequent analysis. The date of data retrieval and analysis was June 1, 2024.

Descriptive statistical analysis was performed using the SciVal platform (Elsevier BV Company, United States, available at: <https://www.scival.com/>).

This analysis allowed obtaining key information such as:

- 1.The number and title of the documents published.
- 2.The number and names of the authors who have contributed a paper.
- 3.The countries and institutional affiliations mentioned by the authors.
- 4.The contributions according to the geographical region of the authors.

To evaluate the co-citations between the RPGO and other journals indexed in Scopus, the VosViewer program (version 1.6.10) was used. This tool allows the visualization of co-citation networks, identifying patterns of interrelation between journals, which is essential to understand the position of the RPGO in the global panorama of scientific publications.

In addition, the Bibliometrix package (version 4.2.1) was used to perform advanced analyses such as the application of Lotka's Law, the creation of maps of the most collaborative countries, and the monitoring of the thematic evolution of publications over the years.



Lotka's Law is a theory that describes how a small proportion of authors produce the majority of publications in a specific field, while a large number of authors contribute a limited number of papers. This analysis allows us to understand the concentration of productivity among authors and the dynamics of research in the area of gynecology and obstetrics during the period studied<sup>(8)</sup>.

For the present research, the approval of the ethics committee was not required, because the information collected was obtained through the Scopus database, which is open access.

## RESULTS

A total of 397 papers were collected between 2018 and 2024, with 208 citations, 758 authors, an average of 0.53 citations per paper, and 8,241 references.

Table 1 shows the authors with the highest production in the Revista Peruana de Ginecología y Obstetricia. Eduardo Reyna-Villasmil leads the list with the highest number of papers<sup>(71)</sup>. Erasmo Huertas Tacchino is the author with the highest impact (1.3 citations per paper).

Figure 1 reveals that more than 80% of manuscripts were written by authors with only one published article. This analysis shows that most authors in this field are not very productive, and a small group is responsible for a significant portion of the publications.

The 10 institutions with the highest number of papers are shown in Table 2. The Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos was the institution with the highest production with 88 papers. However, the Hospital Nacional Edgardo Rebagliati Martins is the institution with the high-

TABLE 1. TOP 10 MOST PRODUCTIVE AUTHORS IN THE REVISTA PERUANA DE GINECOLOGÍA Y OBSTETRICIA (2018-2024).

Position	Author	Documents n (%)	Citations	Citations by document	h-index
1	Reyna-Villasmil, Eduardo	71 (17.9)	18	0.3	8
2	Rondón-Tapia, Martha	45 (11.3)	10	0.2	2
3	Torres-Cepeda, Duly	44 (11.1)	10	0.2	5
4	Pacheco-Romero, José	40 (10.1)	14	0.4	4
5	Lacunza Paredes, Rommel Omar	13 (3.3)	8	0.6	1
6	Reyna-Villasmil, Nadia Y.	10 (2.5)	5	0.5	9
7	Mejía-Montilla, Jorly	10 (2.5)	5	0.5	5
8	Huertas Tacchino, Erasmo	8 (2.0)	10	1.3	2
9	Tejada Martínez, Gabriel	8 (2.0)	2	0.3	1
10	Távora Orozco, Luis	7 (1.8)	2	0.3	2

FIGURE 1. DISTRIBUTION OF AUTHOR PRODUCTIVITY ACCORDING TO LOTKA'S LAW IN THE REVISTA PERUANA DE GINECOLOGÍA Y OBSTETRICIA, 2018-2024.

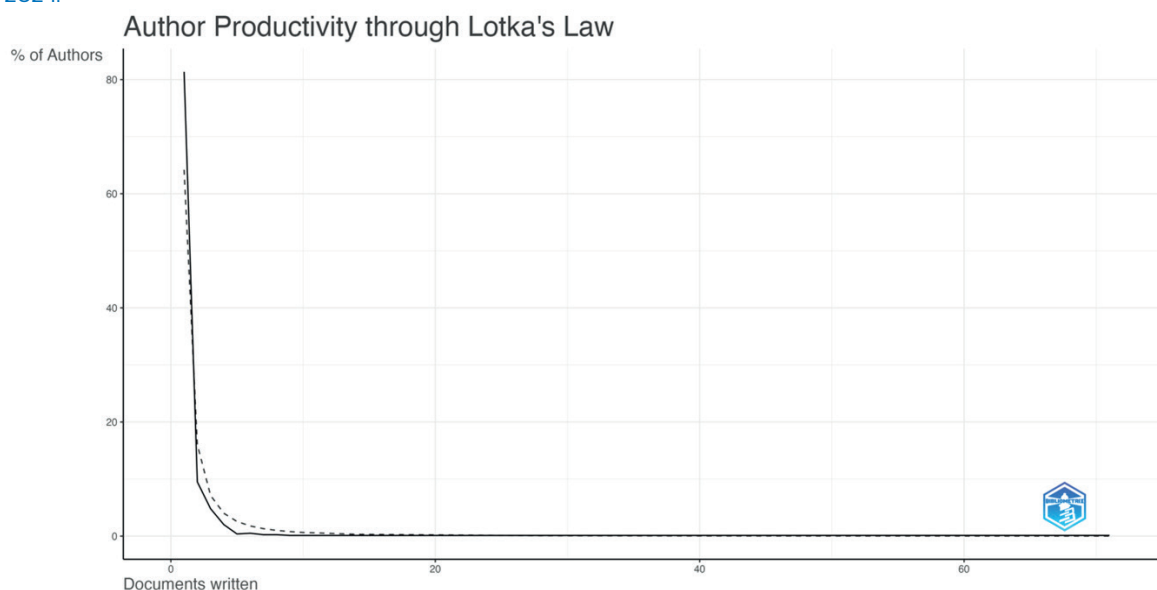




TABLE 2. THE 10 MOST PRODUCTIVE INSTITUTIONS IN THE REVISTA PERUANA DE GINECOLOGÍA Y OBSTETRICIA (2018-2024).

Position	Institution	Documents n (%)	Citations	Citations by document	Authors
1	Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos	88 (22.2)	66	0.8	57
2	Ministerio de Salud del Perú	71 (17.9)	51	0.7	142
3	Seguro Social de Salud del Perú	27 (6.8)	24	0.9	63
4	Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia	19 (4.8)	25	1.3	21
5	Instituto Nacional Materno Perinatal	18 (4.5)	24	1.3	53
6	Hospital Nacional Daniel Alcides Carrión	18 (4.5)	8	0.4	19
7	Hospital Nacional Edgardo Rebagliati Martins	14 (3.5)	20	1.4	24
8	Universidad del Zulia	12 (3.0)	5	0.4	7
9	Hospital Nacional Docente Madre Niño San Bartolomé	9 (2.3)	7	0.8	21
10	Universidad de Carabobo	7 (1.8)	6	0.9	7

est impact (1.4 citations per paper), followed by the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia (1.3 citations per paper) and the Instituto Nacional Materno Perinatal (1.3 citations per paper).

Supplementary material 1 shows the type of geographical collaboration of the authors with their bibliometric indicators. Most of the papers collected had national collaboration (122 articles, 30.8%) and single authorship (122 articles, 30.8%). However, national collaboration had the highest impact, with 0.6 citations per paper.

The five articles with the highest number of citations are shown in supplementary material 2. The article with the highest citation during the study period was 'Maternal and perinatal characteristics of pregnant women with COVID-19 in a national hospital in Lima, Peru by Igor Huerta Sáenz et al, published in 2020<sup>(9)</sup>.

Regarding the country of authors' affiliation without taking Peru into account, Venezuela had the highest number of authors, followed by Spain and Colombia (Figure 2A). The world map of collaboration highlighted three collaborations between countries: United States-Peru, Venezuela-Ecuador, United States-Venezuela (Figure 2B).

Figure 3 shows the thematic evolution of the articles published during the study period. During the period 2020-2022 there was a high frequency of the theme 'pregnancy' compared to previous years. However, during the last period 2023-2024 the topics associated with 'cesarean section' and 'in vitro fertilization' became more relevant.

Supplementary material 3 shows the network of co-citations of the RPGO and other journals indexed in Scopus. The national journal with the highest number of co-citations was the Revista Peruana de Medicina Experimental y Salud Pública. Meanwhile, at the international level it was the Revista de Ginecología y Obstetricia de México.

## DISCUSSION

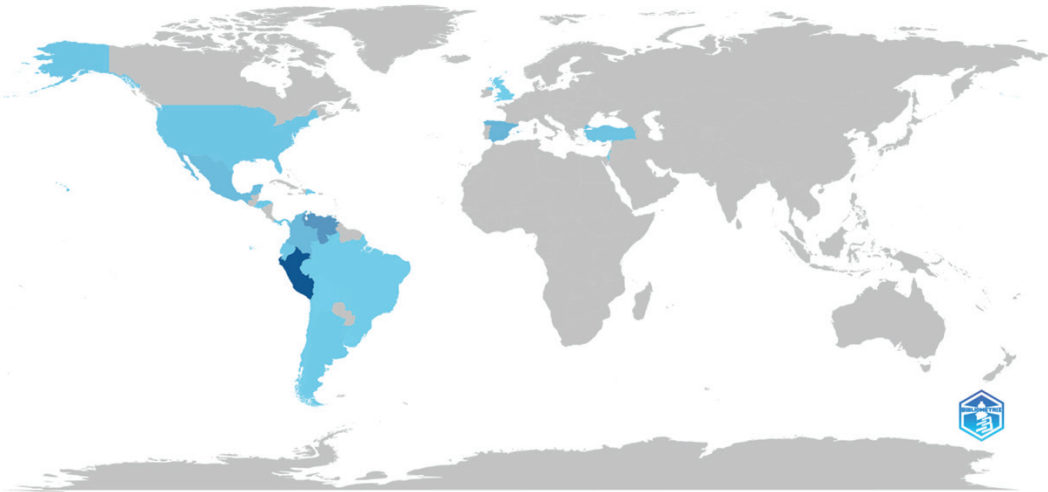
In recent years there has been a considerable increase in women's health research, especially in the field of gynecology and obstetrics. This has been driven by advances in areas such as maternal health, reproductive technology and prevention of gynecological diseases. The Peruvian Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics (RPGO, for its acronym in Spanish) has been a key platform in the dissemination of these advances, standing out as a reference in the region. In this context, the aim of the present bibliometric study was to evaluate the scientific production of RPGO between 2018 and 2024, given its Latin American relevance in gynecology and obstetrics.

The analysis found 397 published articles and a total of 208 citations. The author with the highest impact in RPGO was Eduardo Reyna-Villasmil, with an average of 71 papers and an average of 0.3 citations per publication. With respect to the most productive institutions, the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos ranked first in number of publications. This is consistent with another bibliometric analysis of scientific publications on the COVID-19 pandemic, where this institution ranked second in terms of productivity in the area, symbolizing its notoriety and

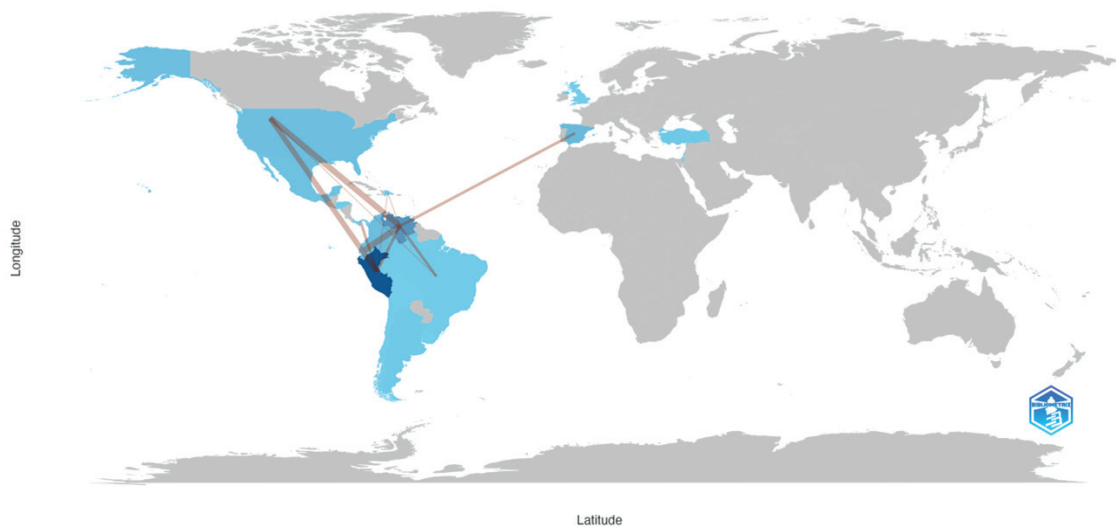


FIGURE 2. GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION (A) AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS (B) IN THE REVISTA PERUANA DE GINECOLOGÍA Y OBSTETRICIA.

### Country Scientific Production



### Country Collaboration Map



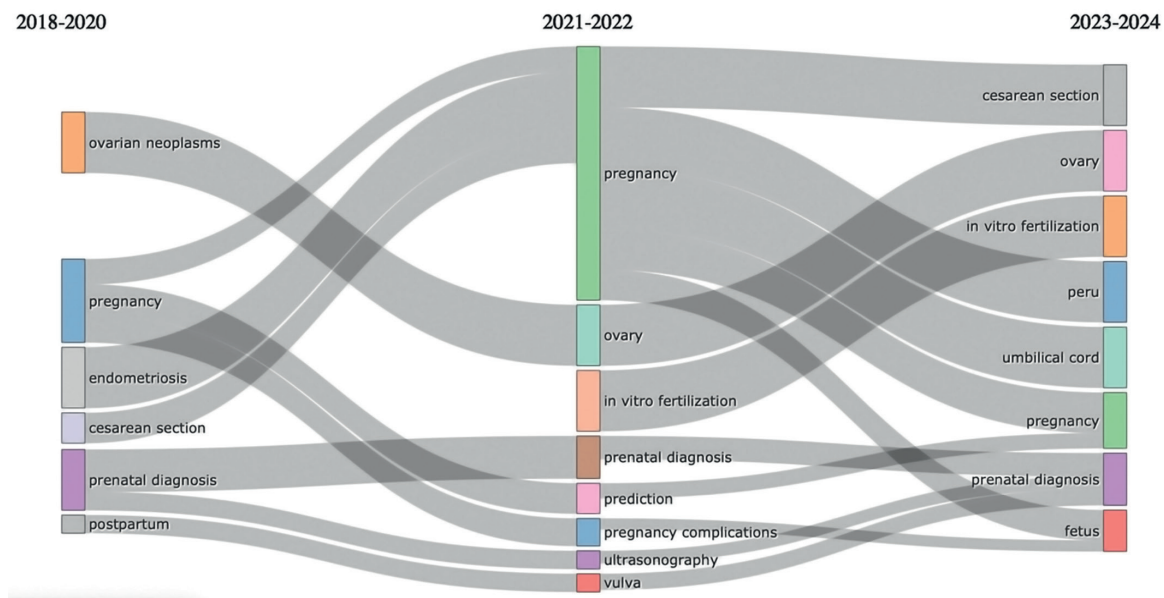
importance in different areas of scientific production<sup>(10)</sup>. In addition, the authors of this institution lead other publications related to hypertensive disorders of pregnancy. In one of them, variations in plasma nitric oxide concentrations are evidenced in comparison with normotensive pregnant women, while other authors evaluated the use of fetal venous flow and the brain-placental index as markers of fetal hypoxia in cases of preeclampsia<sup>(11,12)</sup>.

Regarding the type of collaboration of the studies, most of the articles and citations in the RPGO had national collaboration; this would indicate

that the RPGO has a strong focus on local research in the field of gynecology and obstetrics. This finding is consistent with a study that analyzed collaboration in Peruvian scientific journals and found that the majority of articles were the product of national collaborations, highlighting the importance of local research in different areas of medicine, such as public health<sup>(13,14)</sup>. This suggests that the RPGO plays a crucial role in fostering local research, allowing the consolidation of the national knowledge base and generating new opportunities for scientific collaboration in the area of obstetrics and gynecology within the country.



FIGURE 3. THEMATIC EVOLUTION THROUGH THE YEARS OF THE REVISTA PERUANA DE GINECOLOGÍA Y OBSTETRICIA (2018-2024).



Regarding the authors' countries of origin, Venezuela stands out as the country with the highest affiliation after Peru, which reflects an important relationship of scientific collaboration in the region. This contribution is followed by Spain and Colombia, showing an international academic interest in the topics addressed by the *Revista Peruana de Ginecología y Obstetricia*.

However, these results contrast with previous studies, such as the analysis by Vásquez-Uriarte et al.<sup>(10)</sup> which highlighted Colombia and Brazil as the most cited and productive countries in South America, reflecting a different distribution in scientific publications. In terms of global scientific cooperation, the results show that the most important collaborations include partnerships between the United States and Peru, Venezuela and Ecuador, and the United States and Venezuela. These partnerships reflect the integration of the *RPGO* into the global scientific community and highlight the relevance of these collaborations. For example, the U.S.-Peru collaboration highlights that Peruvian researchers are successful in integrating international networks, while the Venezuela-Ecuador cooperation may be driven by geographic proximity and similarities in women's health challenges in the region.

The collaboration between the United States and Venezuela indicates a strong scientific connection despite possible political or economic challenges between the two nations, underscor-

ing the relevance of obstetrics and gynecology research in these countries. These patterns of cooperation coincide with those found in studies such as that of Falagas et al.<sup>(7)</sup> where the constant participation of the United States in joint research with European and Latin American countries is highlighted. Similarly, A. Narayan et al.<sup>(15)</sup> and J. Borja Oré et al.<sup>(16)</sup> have noted the prominent presence of international collaborations in the region, particularly in the field of women's health.

Regarding the thematic evolution of articles published in *The Peruvian Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics (RPGO)* during the period 2020-2022, there was a high frequency of publications related to the topic of 'pregnancy', which may be related to the increased attention to maternal health and the unique challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic in the management of pregnancy. This intensified focus on pregnancy indicates a global interest in improving maternal and neonatal health outcomes during challenging times<sup>(4,9,17)</sup>.

However, during the last analysis period considered in this bibliometric study comprising 2023 and 2024, the topics associated with 'cesarean section' and 'in vitro fertilization' (IVF) became more relevant. This shift may indicate a response to the increasing rate of cesarean sections and advances in assisted reproductive technologies. The increased attention to cesare-



an sections may be related to debates about the indications and long-term consequences of this procedure, as well as efforts to optimize perinatal outcomes, as mentioned by Sinchitullo-Castillo et al. in their analysis<sup>(18)</sup>. On the other hand, the increase in publications on IVF may reflect advances in assisted fertilization techniques and the growing number of couples seeking fertility treatments. These thematic changes evidence the capacity of the RPGO to adapt and respond to emerging needs and trends in reproductive health, which is consistent with the study of A. Guzman, who highlights the evolution of public health in Peru, especially in areas such as maternal and child health, contraception, and women's sexual and reproductive rights. His analysis focuses on the events that drove these improvements<sup>(19)</sup>.

When considering the co-citation network of the RPGO and other journals indexed in Scopus, the national journal with the highest number of co-citations was the *Revista Peruana de Medicina Experimental y Salud Pública*, which highlights the cooperation and interconnection between different medical disciplines within the health field in Peru. This relationship indicates that research published in the RPGO is not only relevant to the specific field of gynecology and obstetrics, but also contributes to the broader knowledge in experimental and public health, in general. The aforementioned is reinforced by the study conducted by Távara Orozco et al, who highlight that the contribution of 14.18% of the publications of this journal between 1993 and 2016 focused on maternal mortality and family planning as the main topic<sup>(20)</sup>. In the international arena, the journal with the highest number of co-citations was the *Revista de Ginecología y Obstetricia de México*. This connection suggests a strong collaboration and recognition among Latin American researchers, promoting an exchange of knowledge and practices that can improve health outcomes in the region. The presence of these co-citation networks reflects the influence of the RPGO both nationally and internationally and its central role in the dissemination of relevant and high-quality research in the field of reproductive health.

The present study has some limitations. First, only the period from 2018 to 2024 was analyzed; however, focusing on recent years allowed us to

obtain a more current view of the RPGO's productivity. Second, only the information available in Scopus was used, which may not reflect the totality of the RPGO publications. However, it should be noted that this database maintains optimal quality standards for indexed articles. These factors ensure that the publications analyzed in our study maintain methodological rigor. Finally, by analyzing a short and recent period, the number of citations received may be underestimated.

## CONCLUSION

The Peruvian Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics (RPGO) has established itself as one of the most relevant journals in Latin America, driven by a growing collaboration both nationally and internationally in the field of gynecological and reproductive health. This synergy allows it to keep up to date with the latest research in gynecology and obstetrics, addressing crucial issues such as pregnancy, cesarean sections and in vitro fertilization in an interrelated manner, reinforcing its role in the dissemination of scientific knowledge in these areas.

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