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Yazar Peerj21 -

Gönderim Tarihi: 15-Ağu-2019 03:45PM (UTC+0300)

Gönderim Numarası: 1160326208

Dosya adı: peerj-reviewing-39912-v0.pdf (909.28K)

Kelime sayısı: 8315

Karakter sayısı: 45316

Mapping theme trends and recognizing hot spots on postmenopausal osteoporosis: a bibliometric analysis

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Abstract

Background: Due to the high morbidity and correlated with age-related fractures, postmenopausal osteoporosis is a crucial clinical and public health burden, but the bibliometric studies on such field remain unclear. This study was summarized the research progress on postmenopausal osteoporosis in recent five years.

Methods: Scientific papers published on postmenopausal osteoporosis were extracted from Jan 1st, 2013 to Dec 31st, 2017. Extracted information were analyzed quantitatively with Bibliographic Item Co-Occurrence Matrix Builder (BICOMB) and extremely frequent MeSH terms/MeSH subheadings terms were confirmed to explore the hot spots in this field, co-word biclustering analysis was conducted by gCLUTO based on major MeSH terms/MeSH subheadings terms-source articles matrix.

Results: The research findings covered 2089 publications, and eight authors published twenty or more articles. A total of 720 publications (34.47%) came from England, 700 publications included (33.51%) were from the United States, and 1972 of the 2089 articles (94.22%) were published in English. The ranking of top ten most productive journals brought out 37.48% (783/2089) of the articles on this theme. Eight research hot spots were identified.

Conclusions: Eight major research hot spots identified provide basic information that can be used in further research regarding the treatment of osteoporosis. On the side, comparison with England and the United States, the correspondingly small amount of literature extracted via PubMed from other countries suggests to a certain degree that the area might be less developed in these regions. Additional Studies on postmenopausal osteoporosis could give some references for the health of the elderly women.

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Key words: Postmenopausal osteoporosis; Mapping theme trends; Hot spots; Co-word analysis; Bibliometric analysis; Biclustering;

Introduction

39 The health of the elderly has received more and more attention this year. With the aggravation
40 of population aging, the incidence of primary osteoporosis increases sharply. Osteoporosis
41 causes high rates of age-related fractures, peculiarly the hip fractures and Vertebral fracture,
42 which shape into a considerable burden to public health [1].
43 Osteoporosis, attributed by microstructural degeneration of bone tissue and low bone mass,
44 has been defined as a systemic skeletal disease with an incremental consequent in bone fragility
45 and sensitivity to fracture [2]. The most common osteoporotic fractures are the proximal femur,
46 the vertebrae and the distal radius fracture. Owing to the ageing population, their life quality
47 seriously impacted by fractures, which is becoming a primary public health problem. With the
48 increasing incidence of osteoporotic fractures at all ages, women have twice the risk of fractures
49 men. It is particularly important to pay attention to postmenopausal osteoporosis.
50 Primary osteoporosis mainly points to postmenopausal osteoporosis, resulting from estrogen
51 deficiency, accounts for a large portion of osteoporosis [3]. Estrogen deficiency leads to an
52 increase in bone turnover on account of effects on all types of bone cells. To repair microdamage
53 and adapt to mechanical and metabolic needs, bone is being modeled continuously.
54 Consequently, remodeling of bone is fulfilled by two specialised cells: bone-forming osteoblasts
55 and bone-resorbing osteoclasts. Trabecular bone (loss of connectivity) and cortical bone (cortical
56 thinning and porosity) is effected by the imbalance of bone formation and resorption.
57 Bone mineral density (BMD) — measured by dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA) — is
58 a golden key to diagnose osteoporosis. According to the WHO, osteoporosis is defined by a
59 BMD of 2.5 standard deviations (T-score) below the average BMD of healthy young women
60 [4]. The decision on whom to treat is made based on treatment algorithms (such as the WHO
61 Fracture Risk Assessment Tool (FRAX)) that take into account the BMD together with pivotal
62 risk factors for fractures (for example, prior fractures and age). A 10-year hip fracture risk of 3%
63 is usually regarded as a cut-off to initiate treatment [5]. Diphosphonates are given as first-line
64 treatment, followed by denosumab (a RANKL inhibitor). Teriparatide (a fragment of parathyroid
65 hormone) is the only approved anabolic agent. Estrogen replacement therapy or selective
66 estrogen receptor modulators can be considered in specific conditions [6]. According to
67 improved understanding of the cellular basis for osteoporosis, new drugs targeted to key
68 pathways are under development.
69 Prevention of osteoporosis is directed at gaining maximum peak bone mass and minimizing
70 postmenopausal and age-related bone loss through nutrition, maintenance of a normal body mass
71 index, regular physical activity and absence of smoking [7]. The main complication of
72 osteoporosis is fractures. By reducing falls in high-risk populations, fractures may also be
73 restrained [8].
74 While the above reviews to a certain extent, reflects the research status on postmenopausal
75 osteoporosis, different scholars have different research contents and views in this field, and lack
76 of long-term bibliometric research. In recent years, the method of bibliometric is a quantitative
77 analysis, which has been widely applied to the decision on the development of scientific
78 research. The statistical index measuring the contribution of a subject or scientific publications in
79 the area of research may on behalf of the research trends and hotspots [9]. A research hot spot
80 points to research focus on which the researchers conducted a lot of research and numerous
81 relevant articles published.

1
82 The hot spots of the field can generally be recognized by estimating the relationship and
83 frequencies of words that reflect the substance of articles in a field. Back in the late 1970s,
84 French bibliometric scientists put forward the co-word analysis, which utilized to find
85 knowledge and recognize hot spots in scholarly literature [10]. It is based on the principle that
86 two professional terms expressing a specific subject may have a certain internal relationship if
87 they appear in the same article. These two terms in the same article appear more frequently, they
88 are connected closer [11]. Based on this "distance", to further summarize the focus of the
89 research and structure of the subject by statistical analysis, such as factor analysis, cluster
90 analysis, multivariate analysis or multidimensional scaling analysis, the significant keywords of
91 a theme are categorized. As is known to all, it has been widely used cluster analysis to extract an
92 37 a of research theme. For instance, with clustering algorithms, Yu, Z et al characterized the
93 important research topics in cancer discovery using gene expression profiles and Bae HW et al
94 identified the progression patterns in open-angle glaucoma patients with medical treatment [12].
95 Unlike the conventional clustering, biclustering permits coinstantaneous clustering of rows and
96 columns of matrices, not merely cluster the global information, but also to detect local message
97 in high-dimensional data efficiently. Hartigan came up with the creativity that coinstantaneous
98 clustering could be carried out for the rows and columns of matrices firstly until 1972. The frame
99 and algorithm of biclustering officially rendered by Cheng and Church in 2000[13]. From then
100 on, scientists have developed more and more preeminent algorithms and frames. The field of
101 35 biometric recommended biclustering analysis in more recent years. Fiannaca, A et al revealed
102 miRNA expression profiles in breast cancer using biclustering [14]. Li F et al applied
103 biclustering to probe into subject areas and hot spots of research on Internet health information
104 seeking behavior [11]. Their research findings suggested that using the biclustering method can
105 snatch central research focus and representative literature or researches in a field.
106 To the best knowledge of the authors, for the time being, there have been few bibliometric
107 articles on postmenopausal osteoporosis. In this study, an integrated analysis on external features
108 and content patterns of pertinent literature was performed to make clear the research status and
109 progress on postmenopausal osteoporosis in recent five years. Particularly, co-word biclustering
110 analysis was exploited to confirm the research hot spots of postmenopausal osteoporosis. It is
111 hoped that this research will provide some basis for future study on postmenopausal
112 osteoporosis.

113

114 Materials & Methods

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116 Data collection

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118 PubMed, providing free access to MEDLINE, OLDMEDLINE, and other related databases
119 and developed by the national center for biotechnology information (NCBI) of the national
120 library of medicine (NLM), from which related data were extracted and downloaded without the
121 restriction of language. MeSH (Medical Subject Headings) terms, a series of standardized words

that can map the content of articles. According to those MeSH words, the co-word clustering analysis can be carried out continuously [11]. The search strategy applied was "Osteoporosis, Postmenopausal"[Mesh]. Publication date was set from Jan 1st, 2013- Dec 31st, 2017 and a total of 2089 literature were extracted. Two investigators independently conducted the primary search by screening these articles ground on the full text, titles and abstracts in some cases. The agreement rate between them was 0.90, showing a strong accordance [15]. Before the agreement reaching, any differences are discussed particularly. From PubMed, each downloaded article comprised the following key items: PubMed Unique Identifiers (PMIDs), MeSH terms, country, institution, language, author, publication year, source and title. These data were saved as file in XML format.

1 Data extraction and matrix setup

Bibliographic Item Co-Occurrence Matrix Builder (BICOMB)(developed by Professor Cui from China Medical University and securable online freely) [16] and Microsoft Excel were utilized to identify the proportion of the frequency permutation of major MeSH terms/MeSH subheadings terms, countries, languages, authors, publication year, the first author and the journals of the involved literature.

In this study, the tendencies of the extremely frequent major MeSH terms/MeSH subheadings terms were stated visually in the meanwhile. So as to detect the hot spots of postmenopausal osteoporosis, biclustering for involved publications and extremely frequent major MeSH terms/MeSH subheadings terms was carried out. Applying biclustering, the relationship between source articles and extremely frequent words and the relationship among extremely frequent words could be. Wherefor, from BICOMB, a binary matrix with source articles as the columns and extremely frequent major MeSH terms/MeSH subheadings terms as the rows was structured for further biclustering by means of the software "gCLUTO", version 1.0 (Graphical CLustering Toolkit, a graphical front-end for the CLUTO data clustering library, developed by Rasmussen, Newman, and Karypis from University of Minnesota) [17]. Based on the literature, parameters of biclustering in gCLUTO were set, which were suitable for biclustering analysis. Then, I2 was selected for criterion function, Cosine was chosen for similarity function and repeated bisection for clustering method. The biclustering result of the matrix of source articles - extremely frequent major MeSH terms/MeSH subheadings terms was displayed by matrix visualization and mountain visualization. In order to identify the appropriate number of clusters, the biclustering with different numbers of clusters were redirected until the matrix visualization and mountain visualization reach the optimal result. With semantic relationships between major MeSH terms/MeSH subheadings terms and the typical source articles in clusters, the fundamental structure of research focus on postmenopausal osteoporosis was mapped and establish.

Results

Growth of the relevant Literature

162
163 In total, 2089 literature (Jan. 1st, 2013-Dec. 31st, 2017) were involved in this research based
164 on the search strategy and inclusion criteria. Over the past five years, investigators are concerned
165 about postmenopausal osteoporosis less and less. It is demonstrated that the annual output of
166 literature has decreased bit by bit from 498 in 2013, to 320 in 2017 in the area of postmenopausal
167 osteoporosis. (Fig. 1)

168 169 Distribution characteristics of literature 170

171 In all of the articles that provided by PubMed on postmenopausal osteoporosis, 98.95%
172 (2067/2089) furnished the addresses of authors. Thus, based on the rough statistics, articles on
173 postmenopausal osteoporosis downloaded from PubMed stemmed from at least 52 different
174 countries. In Fig. 2, the number of research findings on postmenopausal osteoporosis in different
175 countries or regions has been enumerated. So far, England (34.47%) and the United States
176 (33.51%) have been the largest contributors to postmenopausal osteoporosis.

177 Of all 12587 authors contained in this subject, individually, eight authors published twenty or
178 more articles. Reginster JY topped the list with 28 articles, five of which were printed as the first
179 author. Roux C brought out 26 articles come off second best, publishing four articles as the first
180 author. As for ranking of the first author, the top place with eleven articles on postmenopausal
181 osteoporosis were Palacios S from Spain and McClung MR from the United States.

182 Majority of these literature were published in English (94.22%,1972/2089), the remaining
183 articles were published in Chinese (1.15%, 24/2089), Spanish (1.10%, 23/2089), German
184 (0.91%, 19/2089), , French (0.67%, 14/2089), Japanese (0.57%, 12/2089) Russian (0.33%,
185 7/2089), Hungarian (0.24%, 5/2089), Portuguese (0.14%, 3/2089) Polish(0.14%, 3/2089) and
186 Bulgarian (0.14%, 3/2089), in several. [Note, four articles were published in both English and
187 Norwegian, English and French, English and Spanish [18-21].]
188

189 Most Active Journals 190

191 Thoroughly, 587 journals have emerged in this area. The ten most active journals published
192 783 publications on postmenopausal osteoporosis, accounting for 37.48% of all 2089
193 publications. Rankin 39 of the top ten active journals, which are recognized as the core journals in
194 this field, spread out in Table 1. Throughout 44 the top ten journals, the top three journals are
195 Osteoporosis international, Menopause and The Journal of clinical endocrinology and
196 metabolism, at the same time, these three journals make up more than 22.55% of the entire
197 indexed articles in this area.
198

199 Research Hot Spots of postmenopausal osteoporosis 200

As far as the involved literature, 2439 major MeSH terms/MeSH subheadings terms were computed with an accumulated frequency of 9372 times. After H index standard evaluation, with a frequency of 36 or more times' appearance, a major MeSH term/MeSH subheadings term was defined as an extremely frequent one. Then, 36 extremely frequent major MeSH terms/MeSH subheadings terms abstracting from the involved publications with an accumulated percentage of 38.22% (3582/9372) were displayed in Table 2. Different numbers of clusters were performed by biclustering; mountain visualization and matrix visualization shown the biclustering result of the matrix of source articles - extremely frequent major MeSH terms/MeSH subheadings terms. The mountain visualization and the extremely frequent major MeSH terms/MeSH subheadings terms in each cluster when they were classified into eight clusters was illustrated in Fig. 3. The intention of the mountain visualization is to visibly facilitate the consumer in grasping the result of biclustering and the essence of high-dimensional datasets. Fig. 3 displays each cluster as a peak in the 3D landform marking with the cluster number (from 0 to 7, totally eight clusters in this study). The information about the associated cluster was reflected by location on the plane, altitude, color and volume of a peak. With respect to other peaks, the location on the plane is the most informative attribute of a peak. The relative similarity of their clusters is represented by the interval between a couple of peaks on the plane. The altitude of a peak is often in direct proportion to the internal similarity of the cluster. The internal standard deviation of objects in each cluster revealed by color of each peak. Blue means high deviation, while red means low deviation. Finally, the volume of a peak is in direct proportion to the amount of major extremely frequent major MeSH terms/MeSH subheadings terms stored within the cluster. Based on the knowledge of authors, at lowest 30 publications should be contained in each independent cluster and triplet peaks should not appear in the mountain visualization. The matrix visualization is illustrated in Fig. 4, in which the column tags are PMIDs of source articles, and the row tags on behalf of extremely frequent major MeSH terms/MeSH subheadings terms, separately on the bottom and the right of the matrix. The values present in the matrix are graphically represented by colors. The color of each reseau paints the proportional emergence frequency of a major MeSH term/MeSH subheading term in a publication. The cumulatively deeper red indicates greater significance, while the white indicates the significance closer to none. In Table 3, with the biclustering, gCLUTO replumed the rows of the initial matrix so that analogous rows in the same cluster are converged; these clusters are partition by black horizontal lines. 36 extremely frequent major MeSH terms/MeSH subheadings terms are clustered into eight clusters exposed in the matrix visualization. The top layered cluster tree describes the relationships between articles and the left layered cluster tree demonstrates the relationships between extremely frequent major MeSH terms/MeSH subheadings terms. In each cluster, it also shows each of the major MeSH term/MeSH subheading term exists in matching articles. A deeper exploration of the typical articles in each cluster conducted to the project of discerning and outlining the themes of each cluster. According to the above standards discussed by the research team, the major MeSH terms/MeSH subheadings terms were categorized into eight clusters (Fig. 3). These clusters include:

Genetics related researches on bone metabolisms of postmenopausal osteoporosis (Cluster 0),
 Adverse effects of Diphosphonates (Cluster 1),
 Therapeutic use of postmenopausal osteoporosis (Cluster 2),
 Administration and dosage of Clinical therapy drug——Diphosphonates (Cluster 3),
 Study on epidemiology and etiology of complications on postmenopausal osteoporosis (Cluster
 4),
 Physiology and physiopathology of postmenopausal osteoporosis (Cluster 5),
 Risk factors associated with BMD in the diagnosis of postmenopausal osteoporosis (Cluster 6),
 Clinical drug effects of Dietary Supplements on postmenopausal osteoporosis (Cluster 7),
 These eight clusters could stand for the major research hot spots in recent five years.

Discussion

MeSH terms can image the content of articles and a great quantity of MeSH terms can map the
 current research status and trends of the field. According to the statistical and co-word analysis
 by software BICOMB, the research output on "Osteoporosis, Postmenopausal"[Mesh] in recent
 five years keeps a gradually decrease. Additionally, our analysis suggested that the biggest
 participants of the research in this field are England and the US, which is accord with the
 bibliometric results in other fields [22]. English is the official language in these two countries
 may explain these results. According to a quantitative and co-word biclustering analysis by
 gCLUTO software, similar MeSH terms can be identified and categorized into clusters. Then, the
 research hot spots on postmenopausal osteoporosis were generated on end, so that the essential
 knowledge structure and trends in this field can be examined systematically.

Cluster 0 relates to the genetics researches on bone metabolisms of postmenopausal
 osteoporosis. Postmenopausal osteoporosis is a common polygenic health problem. Genetic
 factors play an important role in the bone metabolisms of postmenopausal osteoporosis. BMD, a
 crucial risk factor for osteoporosis, is under strong genetic control with estimates of heritability
 scoping from 0.5 to 0.9. To date, several studies have reported that some functional genes, for
 instance, the CYP11A1 in vitamin D and estrogen hormone-response pathways, the estrogen
 receptors (ER α) gene, tumor necrosis factor (TNF)- α gene and the TNFSF11, TNFRSF11A in
 the RANKL/RANK/OPG pathway, are implied to be associated with BMD on postmenopausal
 osteoporosis [23]. Exploring different genetic variants underlying development of osteoporosis
 would make it possible to early prophylactics of osteoporosis as well as manage individual-based
 symptomatic treatment.

Cluster 1 relates to adverse effects of diphosphonates. For the treatment of osteoporosis, the
 most widely used medications is diphosphonates, which are divided into two groups on the basis
 of their structures. First generation diphosphonates do not contain nitrogen, while new generation
 diphosphonates have a nitrogen-containing side chain. The structure has a high-affinity for the
 hydroxyapatite at the bone surface, so the diphosphonates can preserve for months or even years.
 After years of evolution, diphosphonates, including alendronate (ALN), risedronate sodium,
 ibandronate sodium (IBN) and zoledronic (ZOL), are more durable and stable. The adverse

effects of diphosphonates, however, are unavoidable. On the one hand, the first intravenous dose of diphosphonates, such as IBN and ZOL, may trigger an acute-phase response (APR). After their first diphosphonates infusion, patients had a fever and pain. Commonly, these symptoms were transient in duration and mild to moderate in intensity. By means of NSAIDs, the incidence and intensity of such APR could be retarded efficiently [24]. On the other hand, an unusual atraumatic or minimal-trauma fracture, the atypical femoral fracture (AFF), has been reported with increasing frequency in long-term diphosphonates users since the first case reports were published in 2005 [25]. A unique case of AFF after diphosphonates therapy, the patient had a successful recovery through conservative treatment [26]. To summarize, it is essential to assess the possibility of atypical fractures in osteoporotic patients when they complain about lower extremity pain and to take into account alternative treatments instead of diphosphonates.

Cluster 2 relates to the therapeutic use of postmenopausal osteoporosis. According to the mechanism, drug therapy for osteoporosis can be divided into antiresorptive agents and anabolic agents. Antiresorptive agents are composed of raloxifene (RAL), diphosphonates, and denosumab. Teriparatide is the only anabolic agent for osteoporosis treatment approved by Food and Drug Administration. Studies have shown that cortical turnover and cortical bone formation in patients who were either treatment naïve (TN) or had previous ALN therapy increase with 24 months of teriparatide treatment [27]. In other clinical studies, synergistic effects of combination therapy with an antiresorptive agent and teriparatide have been proposed [28]. The addition of ALN to ongoing teriparatide and continuing ALN after teriparatide was stopped may be beneficial for patients in terms of areal and volumetric BMD increases [29]. What is more, the treatment of combining teriparatide with diphosphonates can reflect faster bony union and highly improved BMD scores [30]. Although combination therapy has obvious advantages, the best time to start the combination therapy should be further studied to prevent osteoporotic fractures.

Cluster 3 relates to the administration and dosage of Diphosphonates. Diphosphonates as an antiresorptive agent have been accepted for the treatment and prevention of postmenopausal osteoporosis. While the official guidance on the dosage and the length of treatment is lacking. Curative effect of diphosphonates is not very ideal. Firstly, Long-term users with ten dose years or more of a diphosphonates are rare due to periods of low compliance and gaps, with a discrepancy between the length of treatment and doses taken [31]. Then, Long-term diphosphonates treatment of postmenopausal women does not impair the response to subsequently administered intravenous pamidronate suggesting that inadequate response to long-term diphosphonates treatment is not responsible for treatment failure [32]. What's more, over the past decade, several reports have highlighted the increased risk of AFF in patients treated with long-term diphosphonates. On the basis of this recommendation, patients may be advised to stop taking diphosphonates for a while. BMD at the total hip declines significantly within 1 year of diphosphonates discontinuation, particularly in lean patients [33]. Hence, additional studies are needed to identify reasonable treatment of diphosphonates.

Cluster 4 relates to epidemiology and etiology of complications on postmenopausal osteoporosis. The essential complication of postmenopausal osteoporosis is fractures. Accurate

assessment and prediction for the risk of fracture is particularly crucial. DXA regarded as the gold standard for the diagnosis of osteoporosis at the lumbar spine and hip worldwide. Whereas, BMD reveals merely a portion of an individual's fracture risk by reason that the multi-factor of fragility fracture. Accordingly, consideration must be taken into the identification of patients at high risk of fracture, and many clinical risk factors predict the risk of fracture, independently of the BMD. The combine of BMD with risk factors can enhance the precaution of patients at high risk of osteoporotic fractures. A real-world study found teriparatide to be more effective in reducing risk of fragility fractures as early as 6 months with continuous treatment benefit up to 24 months [34]. A FRAX, using nine clinical risk factors: age, sex, BMI, prior fragility fracture history, family history of hip fracture, the existence of secondary osteoporosis, exposure to systemic glucocorticoids, current smoking and three or more units of alcohol per day, has been developed and acknowledged by the WHO to predict an individual 10-year risk of major or hip osteoporotic fractures. In addition, the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF) One Minute Test, though with the lowest predicting rate compared to other tested tools, had competent precision for predicting yet [35,36]. Moreover, there is an increasing risk for hip fracture in postmenopausal women with type 2 diabetes [37]. From what has been discussed above, further etiology studies should be conducted to prevent the occurrence of complications.

Cluster 5 relates to the physiology and physiopathology of postmenopausal osteoporosis. A strong correlation between BMD scores and the probability of fragility fractures is well-documented. BMD is affected by multiple factors. Higher BMI scores and moderate levels of physical activity have been found significant in avoiding a decline in BMD [38]. Life satisfaction and its improvement are longitudinally linked with reduced bone loss in postmenopausal women [39].

Cluster 6 relates to risk factors associated with BMD in the diagnosis of postmenopausal osteoporosis. With the increasing incidence of postmenopausal osteoporosis, it is important to identify risk factors for the prevention of postmenopausal osteoporosis. As the cause of postmenopausal osteoporosis is multiple factors, it is difficult to accurately reveal its risk factors. Exercise is consistently effective in favorably affecting BMD in (initially) early-postmenopausal women without any leveling-off effect after 16 years of exercise [40]. Duration of fertility (years of menstruation) longer than 33 years and a BMI greater than 32 seem to prevent postmenopausal osteoporosis. Age is also an independent risk factor for postmenopausal osteoporosis [41]. When it comes to diagnostic imaging, in probabilistic sensitivity analysis, DXA and quantitative CT at age 55 years with quantitative CT screening every 5 years was the best strategy. Furthermore, combined assessment of bone strength and BMD is a cost-effective strategy for osteoporosis screening in postmenopausal women and has the potential to prevent a large number of osteoporosis fractures.

Cluster 7 relates to the drug effect of alternative therapy—Dietary Supplements. In spite of pharmacotherapy, for instance, diphosphonates, have been widely used to alleviate the risk of fractures and remedy osteoporosis. With low compliance with long-term medication and related adverse effects, it is instant and crucial to develop new alternative medicine to treat osteoporosis.

361 Additionally, many people admire alternative and complementary therapies. ⁵ A calcium collagen
 362 chelate (CC) dietary supplement was effective in improving BMD and blood biomarkers of bone
 363 turnover in osteopenic postmenopausal women [42,43]. Context Eucommiae Cortex and Radix
 364 Dipsaci, occurring in a ratio of 1:1 in Du-Zhong-Wan (DZW) and Puerarin 600-O-xyloside can
 365 also achieve the above effect on ovariectomy mice [44,45].

366 In addition, we realize that several latent restrictions that may stimulate intensive study. First
 367 of all, although co-word biclustering, based on extremely frequent MeSH ⁴ terms, is a highly
 368 beneficial way to determine research hot spots in a field, the number of MeSH terms might have
 369 some effect on the result of biclustering analysis. However, the updated emerging themes with
 370 low attention may not have been involved. Thus, in the future studies, analysis combining
 371 updated emerging themes and multiple databases should be considered. Secondly, complete
 372 affiliation data did not appear in 1.05% (22/2089) of publications, so the countries of these
 373 articles were blank. It may lead to bias that understate in some countries. Finally, publications
 374 were merely extracted and downloaded from the PubMed, which may not cover all publications
 375 associated with postmenopausal osteoporosis, peculiarly non-English and some grey literature,
 376 that's probably why the decline in the research output.

377

378 Conclusions

379

380 In this study, the visualization of research hot spots in the area of postmenopausal osteoporosis
 381 was carried out by content analysis with co-word biclustering. Eight major research hot spots
 382 identified provide basic information that can be used in further research regarding the treatment
 383 of osteoporosis. Furthermore, other bibliometric information suggests the research condition in
 384 this field; the research findings is decreasing stage by stage. Osteoporosis international is the
 385 most active chief journal, which publishing primary articles on postmenopausal osteoporosis. On
 386 the side, comparison with the United States and England, the correspondingly small amount of
 387 literature extracted by PubMed from other countries suggests to a certain degree that the area
 388 might be less developed in these regions. Additional Studies on postmenopausal osteoporosis
 389 could give some references for the health of the elderly women.

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392 Acknowledgements

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395 **Funding:** This study was supported by ⁶ National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grant
 396 No.81472044, 81271939).

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399 Compliance with ethical standards

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Conflicts of interest Siming Zhou, Zhengbo Tao, Yue Zhu and Lin Tao declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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Figure 1

All the literature involved in this research ¹ based on the search strategy and inclusion criteria.

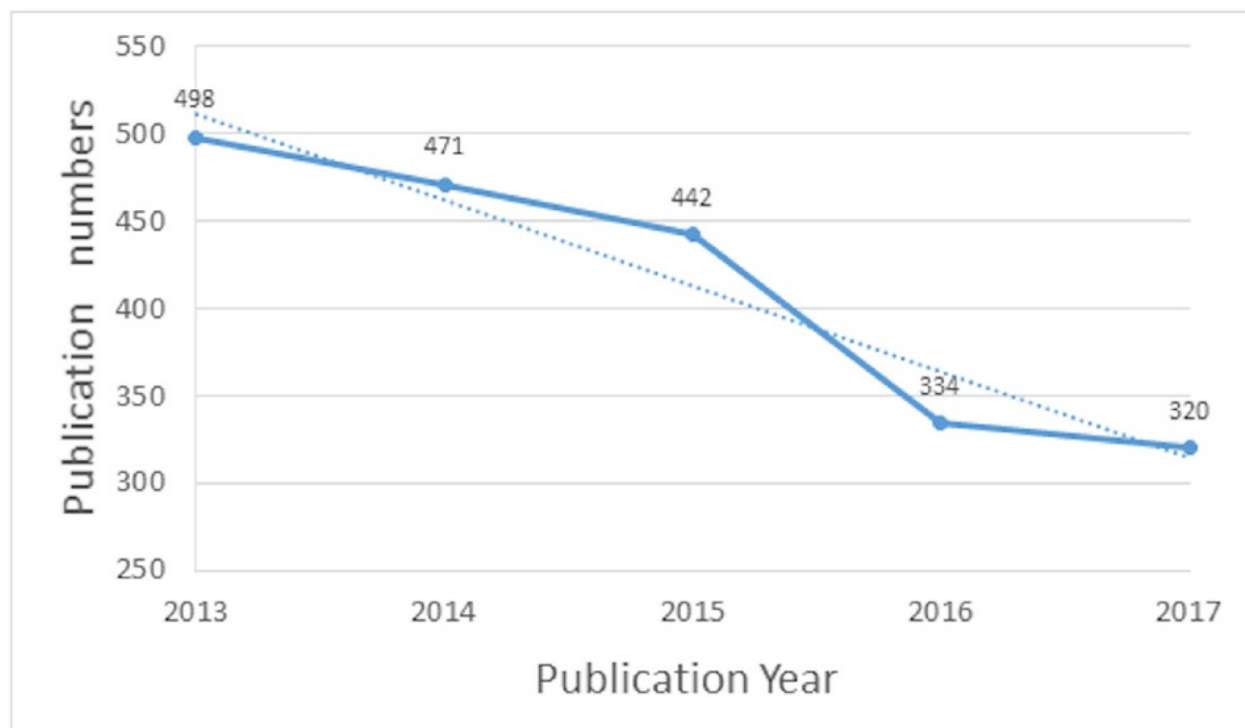


Figure 2

Geographic distribution of research output on postmenopausal osteoporosis

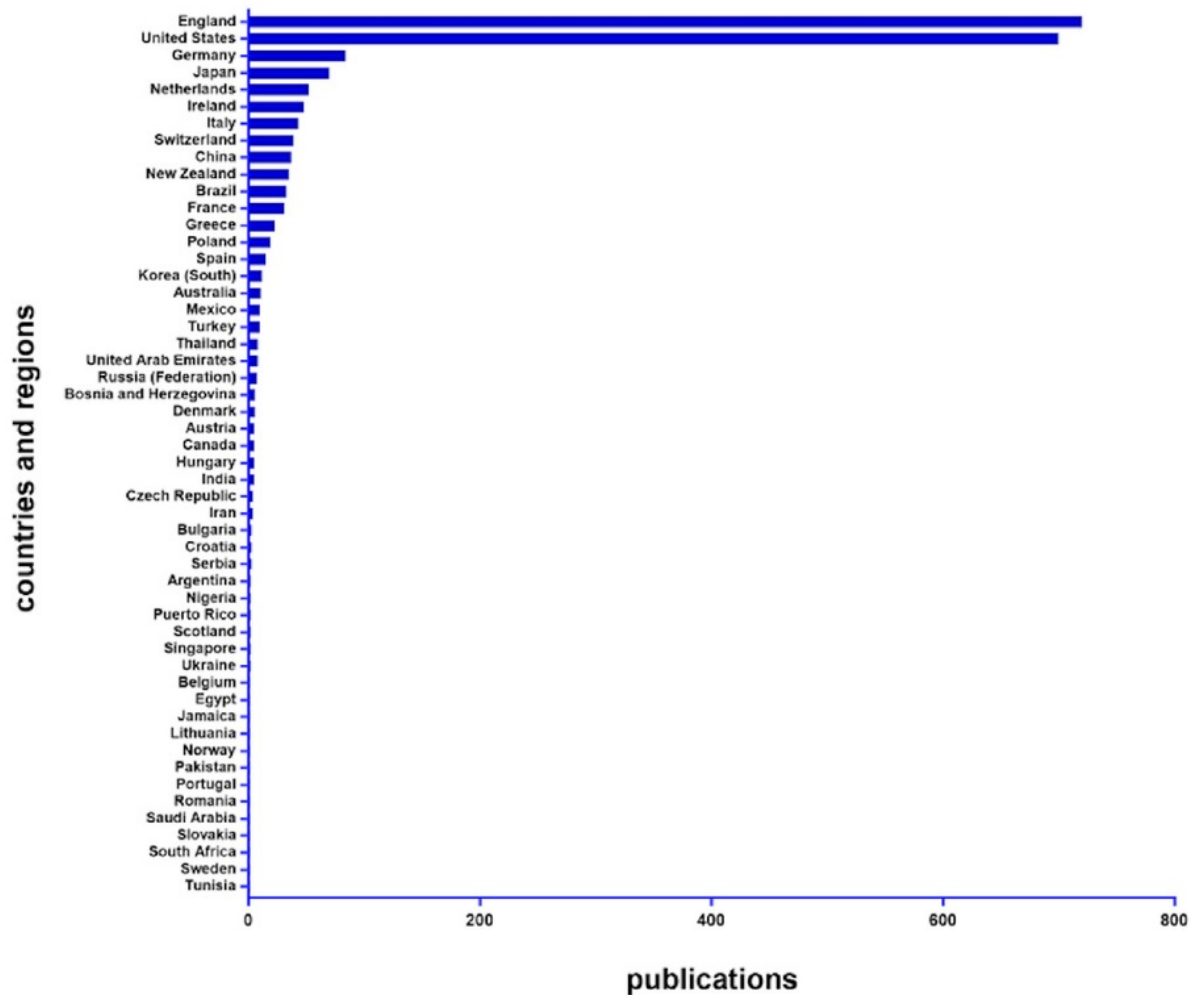


Figure 3

1 Mountain visualization of biclustering of highly frequent major MeSH terms and articles on postmenopausal osteoporosis

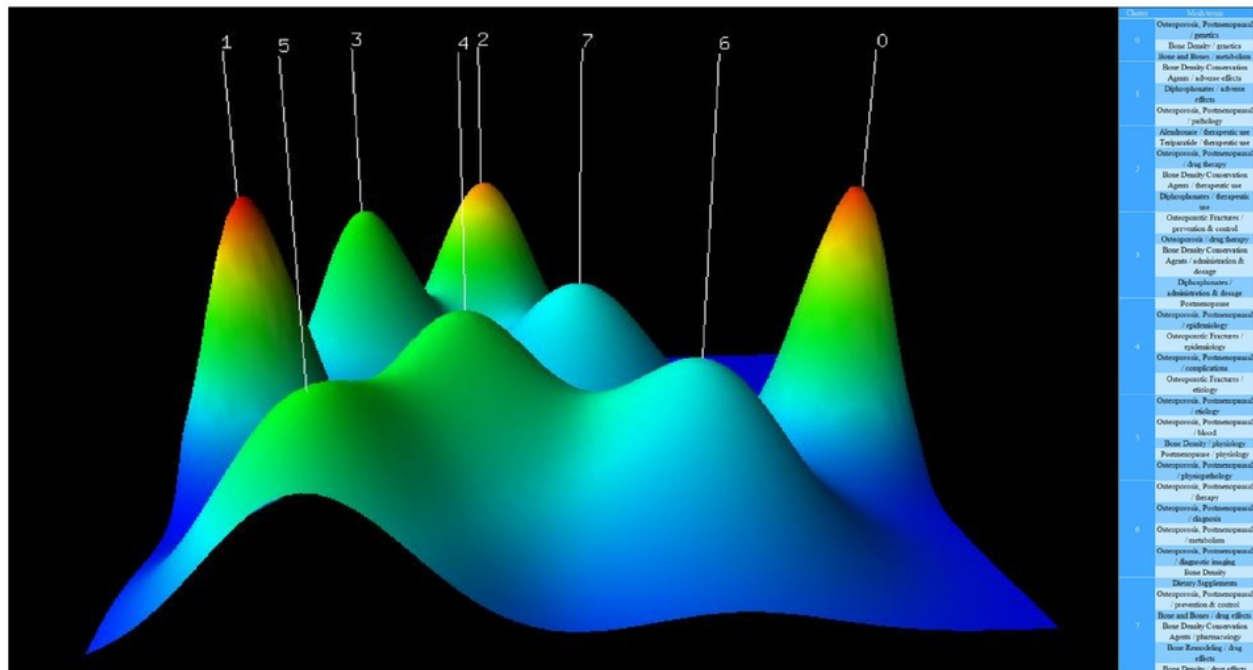


Figure 4

1 Visualized matrix of biclustering of highly frequent major MeSH terms and PubMed Unique Identifiers (PMIDs) of articles on postmenopausal osteoporosis.

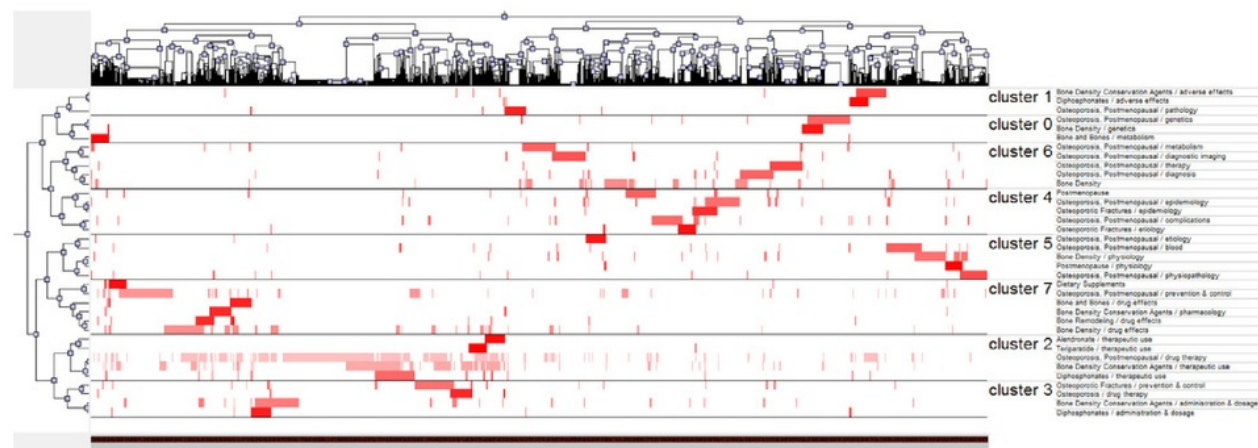


Table 1(on next page)

Most active journals on the topic of postmenopausal osteoporosis (PubMed sourced until Dec 2017) (n=2089).

No.	Top journals	Publications n (%)
1	Osteoporosis international	341 (16.32)
2	48 Menopause	71 (3.40)
3	The Journal of clinical endocrinology and metabolism	59 (2.82)
4	Climacteric	58 (2.78)
5	47 Calcified tissue international	48 (2.30)
6	Journal of bone and mineral research	46 (2.20)
7	Bone	46 (2.20)
8	PloS one	45 (2.15)
9	46 Maturitas	39 (1.87)
10	Journal of bone and mineral metabolism	30 (1.44)
Total		783(37.48)

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Table 2(on next page)

Highly frequent major ⁴MeSH¹ terms from the included publications on postmenopausal osteoporosis (n=9372).

Rank	Major MeSH terms/ MeSH subheadings	Frequency	Proportion of frequency (%)	Cumulative percentage (%)
1	¹⁴ Osteoporosis, Postmenopausal / drug therapy	577	6.1566	6.1566
2	Bone Density Conservation Agents / therapeutic use	305	3.2544	9.4110
3	Osteoporosis, Postmenopausal / prevention & control	208	2.2194	11.6304
4	⁵ Bone Density / drug effects	185	1.9740	13.6044
5	Bone Density	172	1.8353	15.4396
6	Bone Density Conservation Agents / administration & dosage	135	1.4405	16.8801
7	Bone Density / physiology	116	1.2377	18.1178
8	Osteoporotic Fractures / prevention & control	113	1.2057	19.3235
9	Osteoporosis, Postmenopausal / epidemiology	110	1.1737	20.4972
10	Osteoporosis, Postmenopausal / complications	104	1.1097	21.6069
11	Diphosphonates / therapeutic use	102	1.0883	22.6953
12	Osteoporosis, Postmenopausal / genetics	96	1.0243	23.7196
13	Osteoporosis, Postmenopausal / diagnosis	94	1.0030	24.7226
14	Osteoporosis, Postmenopausal / metabolism	94	1.0030	25.7256
15	⁵ Postmenopause	92	0.9816	26.7072
16	Osteoporosis, Postmenopausal / blood	91	0.9710	27.6782
17	Osteoporosis, Postmenopausal / diagnostic imaging	80	0.8536	28.5318
18	Osteoporosis, Postmenopausal / physiopathology	72	0.7682	29.3000
19	¹⁴ Osteoporosis, Postmenopausal / therapy	68	0.7256	30.0256
20	Bone Density Conservation Agents / adverse effects	67	0.7149	30.7405
21	Osteoporotic Fractures / epidemiology	53	0.5655	31.3060
22	Bone Remodeling / drug effects	51	0.5442	31.8502
23	Bone Density Conservation Agents / pharmacology	50	0.5335	32.3837
24	Osteoporosis / drug therapy	50	0.5335	32.9172
25	Bone and Bones / drug effects	48	0.5122	33.4294
26	Osteoporosis, Postmenopausal / pathology	47	0.5015	33.9309
27	Diphosphonates / administration & dosage	46	0.4908	34.4217
28	Osteoporosis, Postmenopausal / etiology	43	0.4588	34.8805
29	Bone Density / genetics	43	0.4588	35.3393
30	Osteoporotic Fractures / etiology	41	0.4375	35.7768
31	Dietary Supplements	40	0.4268	36.2036
32	Alendronate / therapeutic use	40	0.4268	36.6304
33	Diphosphonates / adverse effects	39	0.4161	37.0465
34	Postmenopause / physiology	37	0.3948	37.4413

1	35	Bone and Bones / metabolism	37	0.3948	37.8361
	36	Teriparatide / therapeutic use	36	0.3841	38.2202

Table 3(on next page)

1 Highly frequent major MeSH a terms-source articles matrix (localized).

No.	Major MeSH terms/ MeSH subheadings	Pubmed Unique Identifiers of source articles				
		21631599	22057139	22302614	...	29782125
1	¹⁴ Osteoporosis, Postmenopausal / drug therapy	0	0	0	...	0
2	Bone Density Conservation Agents / therapeutic use	0	0	0	...	0
3	Osteoporosis, Postmenopausal / prevention & control	1	0	1	...	0
4	Bone Density / drug effects	0	0	1	...	0
...
35	Bone and Bones / metabolism	0	0	0	...	0
36	Teriparatide / therapeutic use	0	0	0	...	0

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