

# EXPLORING THE LANDSCAPE OF QUALITATIVE RESEARCH IN THE TOP 20 GASTROENTEROLOGY AND HEPATOLOGY JOURNALS: A 20-YEAR ANALYSIS AND THE RELATIONSHIP WITH SCIMAGO JOURNAL RANK INDICATOR

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**A 20-year analysis of the top 20 gastroenterology journals found that qualitative research remains severely underrepresented, comprising less than 0.0008% of all published primary studies.**

## KEY POINTS

- 68 qualitative studies were identified across the top 20 GI journals between 2002 and 2022, with a median of 1 per journal and a range of 0 to 17 articles
- Most qualitative studies focused on inflammatory bowel disease (44%) and liver transplant (24%), were conducted in the USA (49%) and UK (18%), and used semi-structured interviews (75%) and thematic analysis (53%)
- No significant correlation was found between journal SCImago rank and the percentage of qualitative articles published ( $r=-0.19$ ,  $p=0.43$ )
- The underrepresentation may reflect bias against qualitative research by reviewers and editors or reluctance by researchers to submit such work to clinical GI journals, according to the authors' interpretation

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