



Journal search and commentary

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This section is devoted to reporting on a select group of articles clinically relevant to sleep medicine that have been published in journals not widely read by the international community of sleep clinicians. We use the following selection criteria: first, clinical significance; second, scientific quality; third, general clinical interest; and fourth, educational value. Some preference will be given to the articles from journals less known to the sleep field. It is hoped that this will develop a better global coverage of journals. We recognize that any selection of a handful of articles will be somewhat arbitrary. It is, however, hoped that the articles selected will be of interest to you, the reader, so that when you get your copy of this journal you will turn with interest to these pages as one snapshot of the wider world of sleep medicine.

In this issue we present two survey studies published in languages other than English (Spanish and Italian). One presents the first prevalence study of the Restless Legs Syndrome for a Spanish-speaking population and the first for South America. The rates were about the same as those in North America or Europe, but the South American populations surveyed may have been largely of European descent. The second survey assesses the problem of sleepiness and accidents for Italian highway-patrol police working rapidly changing shifts rotating over the full 24-h day. The late evening shift was, surprisingly, more affected by sleep related accidents than the night shift possibly because a countermeasure used by the Italian police of long naps before the shift begins was generally used for the night but not the late evening shift. We, as sleep clinicians, need to be aware rotating shift work likely causes sleepiness leading to accidents on any shift; appropriate countermeasures are required for each shift.

We offer these reviews hoping you will find them informative and interesting.

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