

Original Article

Research progress of pre-hospital emergency during 2000-2020: a bibliometric analysis

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Abstract: Background: The past decade has witnessed the preliminary development of pre-hospital emergency. We analyzed the scientific output related to pre-hospital emergency in the past two decades, aiming to evaluate the publication status of the literature related to pre-hospital emergency through bibliometrics analysis, and hope to provide enlightenment of trends and hotspots for the development of pre-hospital emergency. Method: By web of science, all literature on pre-hospital emergency from 2000 to 2 October 2020 was retrieved and screened by two researchers. Excel, Social Sciences Statistics Package (SPSS, version 24) and software GraphPad Prism 8 were used to analyze the publication trend in related fields. Besides, VOSviewer, Citespace were also applied to visualize the research trends and study the co-occurring keywords in pre-hospital emergency. Results: As of 2 October 2020, a total of 1839 pre-hospital emergency publications with total citation of 32800 times were identified. The United States accounted for the largest number of publications (36.7%) and the highest number of citations (12825), but its H-index was fourth (20.17). In the aspects of journals and articles, *Prehospital Emergency Care* is the most published journal in pre-hospital emergency (256), while the articles from Smith K presented the highest citation frequency (751). We can also obtain the information that the overall trend is upward, and developed countries contribute most. "Complications" is a hot research field in intensive care. In the identification research cluster, "acute ischemic stroke" was determined to be the hotspot, while "secondary outcome" was the new trend in the first-aid cluster. As for the management, "embase" was noted as new topics. Conclusion: In the past decade, researches on pre-hospital emergency has increased rapidly. However, the related articles were mainly published in developed countries, the United States has absolute advantages especially. Moreover, first-aid studies may become hotspots in the near future.

Keywords: Pre-hospital, emergency, citation, bibliometrics

Introduction

As an emerging independent sub-specialty in medicine, pre-hospital emergency includes not only clinical nursing, but also logistics, rescue ability and field management skills [1]. In recent years, pre-hospital emergency plays an important role in saving the patient's life immediately. In Japan, the existence of pre-hospital emergency mode enables patients to receive professional medical assistance 4-7 minutes in advance [2]. Pre-hospital emergen-

cy also shows unique advantages in the treatment of clinical emergencies such as cardiac arrest [3], stroke [4], respiratory failure [5] and so on. Especially in the process of inter-hospital transport of patients with severe COVID-19, pre-hospital emergency also plays a key role [6]. At present, the public's awareness of pre-hospital emergency is increasingly profound. For example, A lot of countries are popularizing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training and providing automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) in public places [7]. The use of transport

technology also promoted the development of pre-hospital emergency. For example, the emergence of helicopter emergency medical service provided a new idea for pre-hospital emergency transport for severe trauma [8]. Therefore, both in terms of effectiveness and recognition, it is necessary to grasp the development trend and research hotspot of pre-hospital emergency.

Bibliometrics, as a scientific evaluation method, can evaluate the research effect of groups and individuals. Similarly, bibliometrics also provide supporting evidence for the development of future research hotspots [9]. Now the methods of bibliometrics has been widely used in kinds of important fields. Based on Web of Science (WOS), the purpose of our study is to comprehensively analyze the research progress of pre-hospital emergency field. We will use the method of bibliometric analysis to analyze the research trend related to pre-hospital emergency and predict the research hotspots in the future.

Although Richard et al. used bibliometrics to evaluate two decades of prehospital emergency publications worldwide, they focused on the authors of prehospital emergency journals [10], rather than publication trends and keywords. Therefore, our study will fill the gap of publishing trends and future hot spots in the field of pre-hospital emergency.

Materials and methods

Data sources and search strategies

Web of science is one of the largest and most comprehensive academic information resource in the world. Therefore, the publications we collected were obtained from online database Science Citation Index-Expanded (SCI-E) of Thomson Reuters' WOS. All of the search progresses were finished in October 2, 2020, in order to avoid bias introduced by rapid database renewal. The retrieval strategies were as follows: TS = (Emergency Medical Services OR Emergency Services) OR Emergency Service, Medical OR Medical Emergency Service OR Medical Emergency Services OR Service, Medical Emergency OR Services, Medical Emergency OR Medical Services, Emergency OR Emergency Medical Service OR Medical Service, Emergency OR Service, Emergency Medical

OR Services, Emergency Medical OR Prehospital Emergency Care OR Emergency Care, Prehospital OR Emergicenters OR Emergicenter OR Emergency Care OR Emergency. Health Services OR Emergency Health Service OR Health Service, Emergency OR Health Services, Emergency OR Service, Emergency Health OR Services, Emergency Health OR Emergency Medicine OR Medicine, Emergency OR Emergency OR Emergencies OR emergency Aid, First OR Aids, First OR emergencys AND Web of Science Categories = (Prehospital OR Prehospital) AND Language = English. Our data selected only standard peer-reviewed articles and reviews and excluded other types of studies. The specific collection process is shown in **Figure 1**.

Data collation

All the data were extracted by two searchers (LX and YYW), including titles, keywords, publication dates, authors, origin countries and regions, institutions, published journals, sum of citations, H-index and so on. The Microsoft Excel 2013 (Redmond, Washington, USA), statistical package for social sciences (SPSS, version 24, IBM Corporation, USA), GraphPad Prism 8 (GraphPad Prism Software Inc., San Diego, CA), VOSviewer version 1.6.12 (Leiden University, Leiden, the Netherlands), Citespace version 5.6.R5 64bit (Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA, USA), and the Online Analysis Platform of Literature Metrology (<http://bibliometric.com/>) were used for presenting, analyzing of data and description of figures. Meanwhile, the data regarding the gross domestic product (GDP) was retrieved according to the World Bank website.

Bibliometric analysis

Thomson Reuters' Web of Science (WoS) had a large collection of researches especially those focused on biomedicine, so we choosed the WOS to get the characteristics of all incorporated publications. The term relative research interest (RRI) was defined as the amount of publications in a particular research field divided by the total publications across all fields per year. While the impact factor (IF) was obtained from the information provided by the Journal Citation Reports (JCRs) published in 2020. As we all know, it has been widely accepted that H-index serves to reflect the scientific research

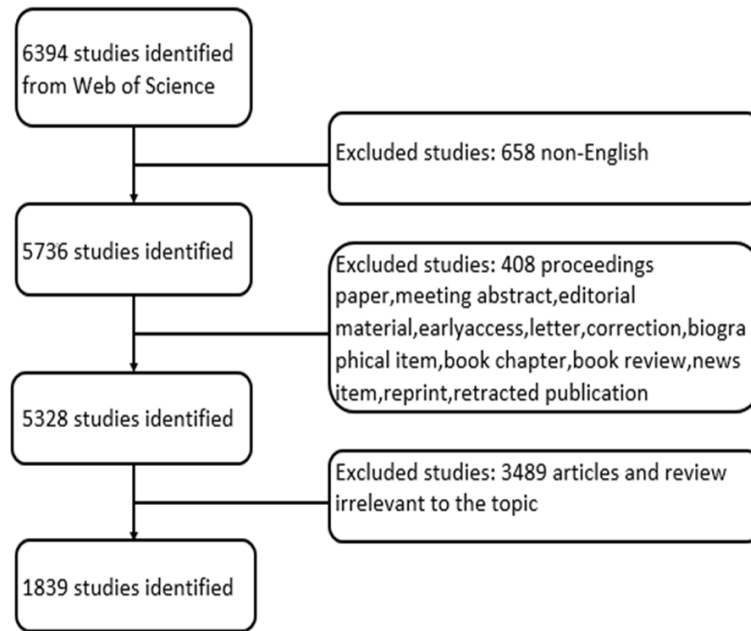


Figure 1. Flow diagram of the inclusion process. The detailed process of screening and enrollment.

impacts of a scholar or a country. The index of H means that a scholar/country has published H papers and each of them has been cited in other publications for at least H times, which is better than other indicators considered (total citation count, citations per paper, and total paper count) in predicting future scientific achievement. Thus H-index can provide a strong assessment of the impact of long-term cumulative research results by researchers.

We also used CiteSpace and VOSviewer to visualize the data we collected. Citespace will present the relevant laws and distribution by means of visualization. Firstly, the information units in the scientific literature (including references at the literature level, keywords at the subject level, subject words, disciplines, domain classifications, authors, institutions, countries, periodicals, etc.) were extracted, and then reconstructed according to the type and intensity of the information units to form a network structure of different meanings (keyword co-occurrence, author cooperation, document co-citation, etc), the nodes in the network represent the document information units, and the connections between nodes were represented (co-occurrence). Finally, through the measurement, statistical analysis (clustering, emergent

word detection, etc) and visualization of nodes, connections and network structures, the hidden patterns and laws of knowledge structures in specific disciplines and fields were found. VOSviewer can generate a variety of bibliometrics-based maps, author or journal co-citation diagrams, keyword co-occurrence diagrams. Compared with other visualization software, its main feature is that the graphical display is rich and clear, which makes the analysis results of bibliometrics easy to explain. We also used Vosviewer to analyze keywords and academic institutions to get preliminary visual results.

Results

Distribution of countries published

From **Figure 2A** of the 1839 articles dated we retrieved from 2000 to 2020. The United States ranked the first in the number of publications at 675 (36.7%), followed by England at 150 (8.1%) and Canada at 140 articles (7.6%). The United States has an absolute advantage in quantity and the number of citations, which is almost the same as the sum of citations in the second to sixth places. But America's H-index is fourth. By comparing the number of papers published per year, we found that the largest number of publications occurred in 2019, with 204 publications (11%) (**Figure 2A**). In addition, we found out, global interest in pre-hospital emergency research increased rapidly between 2009 and 2013, From 2014 to 2017, Starting again in 2018. The overall upward trend is clear. At RRI values, RRI values range from 0.00016 in 2009 to 0.00047 in 2018, Four times higher (**Figure 2B**). By comparing the GDP of economic parameters, the United States is clearly dominant, the rest are also developed countries. By visualizing the relationship between countries, the United States, as the most prolific country, is also most closely associated with other countries, particularly close to his neighbor, Canada (**Figure 3**).

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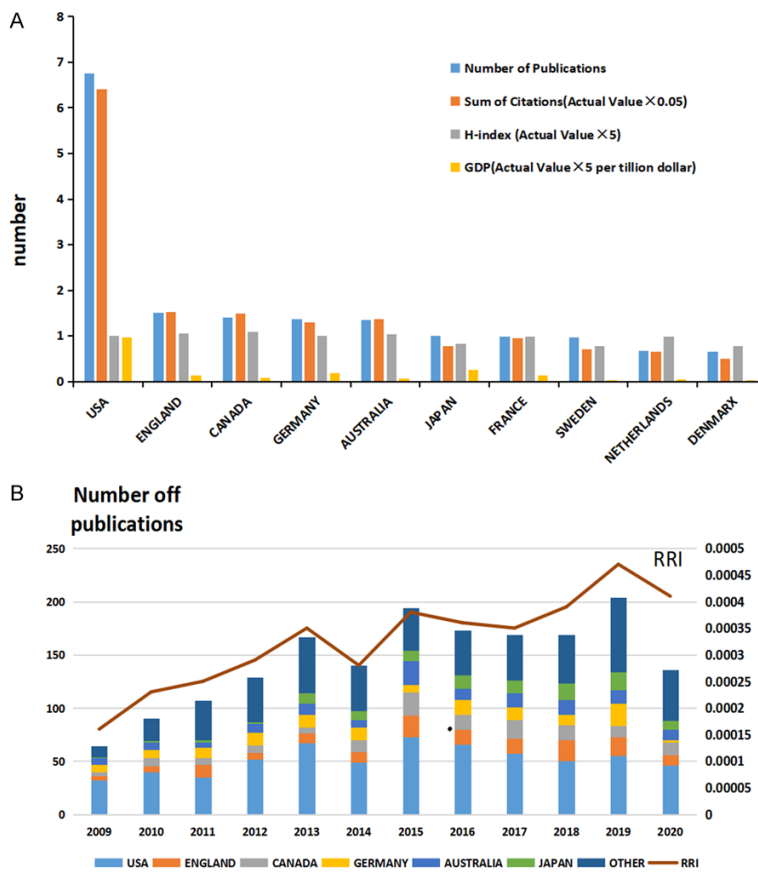


Figure 2. Contributions of different countries/regions to the research field regarding ultrasound in orthopedics researches. A. The number of publications, citation frequency ($\times 0.05$), H-index ($\times 5$) and GDP ($\times 5$, per trillion dollar) in the top 10 countries or regions; B. The number of publications worldwide and the time course of relative research interest of pre-hospital emergency.

Growth trends of publications

The global cumulative publication numbers and the top 6 countries, as well as the corresponding model fitting curves were shown in **Figure 4**. It was found that the global research on pre-hospital emergency will continue to rise over the next decade, as will Britain, Canada, Germany and Australia (**Figure 4C-F**). For the United States and Japan, it was shown that while the development will rise in recently 3 or 4 years, then it will decline in the future (**Figure 4B** and **4G**). However, the number of publications in the United States will still have an absolute advantage in quantity.

Citations and H-index analysis

The total number of citations related to the pre-hospital emergency is 32705 (28773 times without self-citations), with an average citation

frequency of 17.79 times per paper. 12825 (39.2%) were in the United States, Britain and Canada, 3040 (9.29%) and 2966 (9.06%), basically positive correlation with the total number of publications. In addition, although the number of publications from Australia ranked fifth, the citation frequency was 2,715 times with an H-index of 20.65, and thus ranked fourth and third among all considered countries and districts (**Figure 2A**).

Journals with research publications on pre-hospital emergency

Nearly a half of the papers in the field were published in the top 10 journals (44.1%). The top two most published journals are *Prehospital Emergency Care* (IF=2.29), *Resuscitation* followed (IF=4.215). The two journals accounted for 19.7% of the total number of pre-hospital emergency papers. The top third magazine named *Scandinavian Journal of Trauma Resuscitation Emergency Medicine* published 96 articles (IF=2.37). Noticeably, the H-index of the *American Journal of Resuscitation* ranked first in the top 10 journals (39). And the IF factor is also at a high level. The top 10 journals with most publications on pre-hospital emergency were listed in **Table 1**.

Institutions with research publications on pre-hospital emergency

Institutions with research publications on pre-hospital emergency

There were 2711 institutions involved in pre-hospital emergency related literature. Within the list of top 20 institutions in this field, American institutions and Canada account for more than half, with seven and four respectively, three were Australia institutions, two were in Norway, two were in Sweden, one was in South Korea, one was in France. The Univ Pittsburgh published the most (4.676%), followed by Univ Washington (2.991%), the

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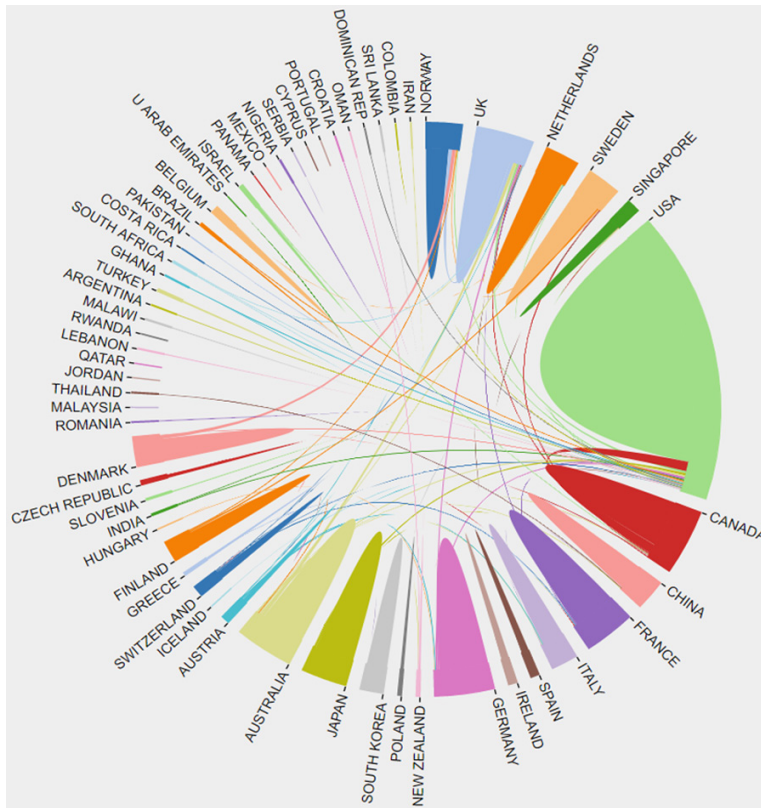


Figure 3. The cooperation networks of countries or regions in the field of pre-hospital emergency. The cooperative relations between countries/regions can be visualized.

Monash University ranked the third (2.936%) (Table 2).

In Figure 5A, the blue colour indicates that the articles belonging to the institution were published relatively early in the research stage, while the red colour indicates a more recent appearance. According to this, it was found that the most published Univ Pittsburgh in recent years are also more active by Citespace, and the Univ Calif San Francisco has published more articles in recent years. In Figure 5B, the size of the ball represents the number of publications of the institutions, so the top three publications of the institutions are Univ Pittsburgh, Univ Washington, Monash University.

Authors with research publications on pre-hospital emergency

The authors who published the most articles was Smith K, from Monash University Australia Published 22 articles, the citation frequency up to 751, average 34 citations.

Second is the Callaway CW of American University of Pittsburgh Published 21 articles, even the total number of citations reached 1674, (34.3%) averaged 79. The United States occupies four of the top ten authors, Australia, Denmark, Korea, Canada, Norway, Sweden has one each (Table 3).

Articles with research publications on pre-hospital emergency

The most cited article in pre-hospital emergency is Part 8: Post-Cardiac Arrest Care 2015 American Heart Association Guidelines Update for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care. Since its publication in 2015, it has been cited 695 times. This paper described and predicted the management of resuscitation in cardiac arrest, including cardiovascular care, temperature management, and respiratory care and so on. The second most cited article was written in 2014 by Kim F et al. on whether prehospital cooling improves outcomes after cardiac arrest and resuscitation in patients with ventricular fibrillation (VF) and non-VF. Besides, there are four the first five articles were on cardiac arrest, which partly explained the importance of the cardiac arrest study (Table 4).

Analysis of keywords in publications of pre-hospital emergency

We analyzed the keywords extracted from 1,839 publications using VOSviewer. As presented in Figure 6A, 118 keywords, defined as terms that occurred more than 45 times within titles and abstracts in all papers during the analysis process, were identified and classified into four clusters, namely, management, first-aid, identification, intensive care. Within the cluster of management, the following keywords were frequently mentioned: service 5573, management 288, review 236, pre-hospital care

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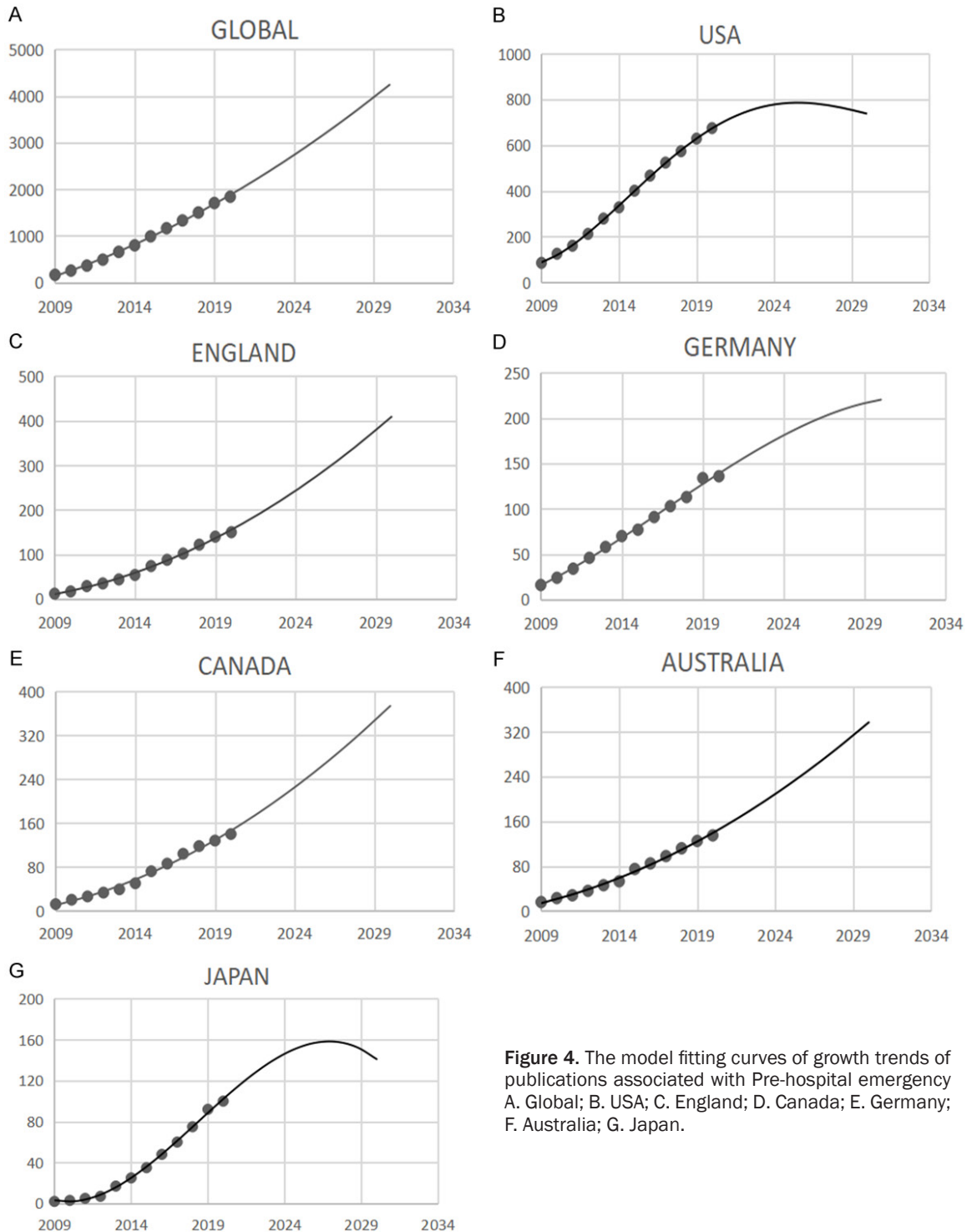


Figure 4. The model fitting curves of growth trends of publications associated with Pre-hospital emergency A. Global; B. USA; C. England; D. Canada; E. Germany; F. Australia; G. Japan.

149, process 123. Within the cluster of identification, diagnosis 195, confidence interval 241, survival 348. Within the cluster of the first aid, cardiac arrest 249, resuscitation 236, odds ratio 184, hospital cardiac arrest 330, spontaneous circulation 188. Within the cluster of intensive care, intubation 192, airway manage-

ment 125, airway 123. Detailed consequences with respect to the cooccurrence analysis of all incorporated keywords are presented in **Figure 6A**, [Supplementary Table 1](#).

As shown in **Figure 6B**, VOSviewer color all keywords according to the average time the key-

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Table 1. The top 10 journals on ultrasound in Pre-hospital emergency

SCR ^a	Journal	Contribution (%)	H-index	IF ^b
1st	Prehospital Emergency Care	215 (11.6)	26	2.29
2nd	Resuscitation	150 (8.1)	39	4.215
3rd	Scandinavian Journal of Trauma Resuscitation Emergency Medicine	96 (5.2)	21	2.37
4th	Emergency Medicine Journal	76 (4.1)	19	2.491
5th	Prehospital and Disaster Medicine	69 (3.7)	11	1.315
6th	American Journal of Emergency Medicine	64 (3.4)	15	4.529
7th	European Journal of Emergency Medicine	62 (3.3)	17	1.22
8th	Journal of Emergency Medicine	45 (2.4)	15	1.224
9th	Injury International Journal of the Care of the Injured	44 (2.3)	16	2.106
10th	Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery	39 (2.1)	17	3.381

SCR standard competition ranking, IF impact factor, OA open access. ^aEqual journals have the same ranking number, and then a gap is left in the ranking numbers. ^bThe impact factor was reported according to the journal citation reports (JCR) 2020.

Table 2. Top 20 institutes with most publications on Pre-hospital emergency

Rank	Institution	Contribution (%)	Country
1st	UNIV PITTSBURGH	4.676	USA
2nd	UNIV WASHINGTON	2.991	USA
3rd	MONASH UNIVERSITY	2.936	AUSTRALIA
4th	UNIV TORONTO	2.447	CANADA
5th	NORWEGIAN AIR AMBULANCE FDN	2.121	NORWAY
6th	KAROLINSKA INST	1.958	SWEDEN
7th	UNIV CALIF SAN FRANCISCO	1.849	USA
8th	MED COLL WISCONSIN	1.631	USA
9th	SEOUL NATL UNIV	1.577	SOUTH KOREA
9th	UNIV HELSINKI	1.577	FRANCE
11th	AMBULANCE VICTORIA	1.468	AUSTRALIA
11th	UNIV BRITISH COLUMBIA	1.468	CANADA
13th	OREGON HLTH SCI UNIV	1.414	USA
13th	UNIV BORAS	1.414	SWEDEN
15th	ALFRED HOSP	1.305	AUSTRALIA
15th	ST MICHAELS HOSP	1.305	CANADA
15th	UNIV OTTAWA	1.305	CANADA
18th	UNIV BERGEN	1.251	NORWAY
19th	CAROLINAS MED CTR	1.196	USA
19th	UNIV CINCINNATI	1.196	USA

words appear. Specifically, blue indicated that the word appears relatively early in the research phase, while yellow indicated late. For example, in the early stage of prehospital emergency, the AAY of the main topic complication (cluster 4) was 2014.8. At the first group, the latest word is embase (cluster 1), AAY is 2015.8. Acute ischemic stroke (cluster 2) is the most recent word in the second cluster, with a AAY of

2015.7 and 47 occurrences. More recently, research trends demonstrated that secondary outcome (cluster 3), with an AAY of 2016.5, may be a new target.

We can also obtain keyword information from **Figure 7** below. Ventilation was the most prominent key word and its strength is 9.3. From 2000 to 2014, it was most strengthened. Next is rapid sequence intubation, its strength was 8.2, and the level of research strengthened from 2008 to 2015. The keyword that has the longest heat is advanced life support, which last from 2000 to 2015.

Discussion

Research trends of pre-hospital emergency

Among all the countries, the United States ranked first in terms of the number of publications, accounting for about one third of the total publications (**Figure 2A**). Moreover, the countries ranked top in terms of the number of publications were all developed countries, which fully indicated that the economic strength and GDP index of a country influence the study of pre-hospital emergency (**Figure 2A**). And the volume of publications in this field will continue to increase in

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A



B

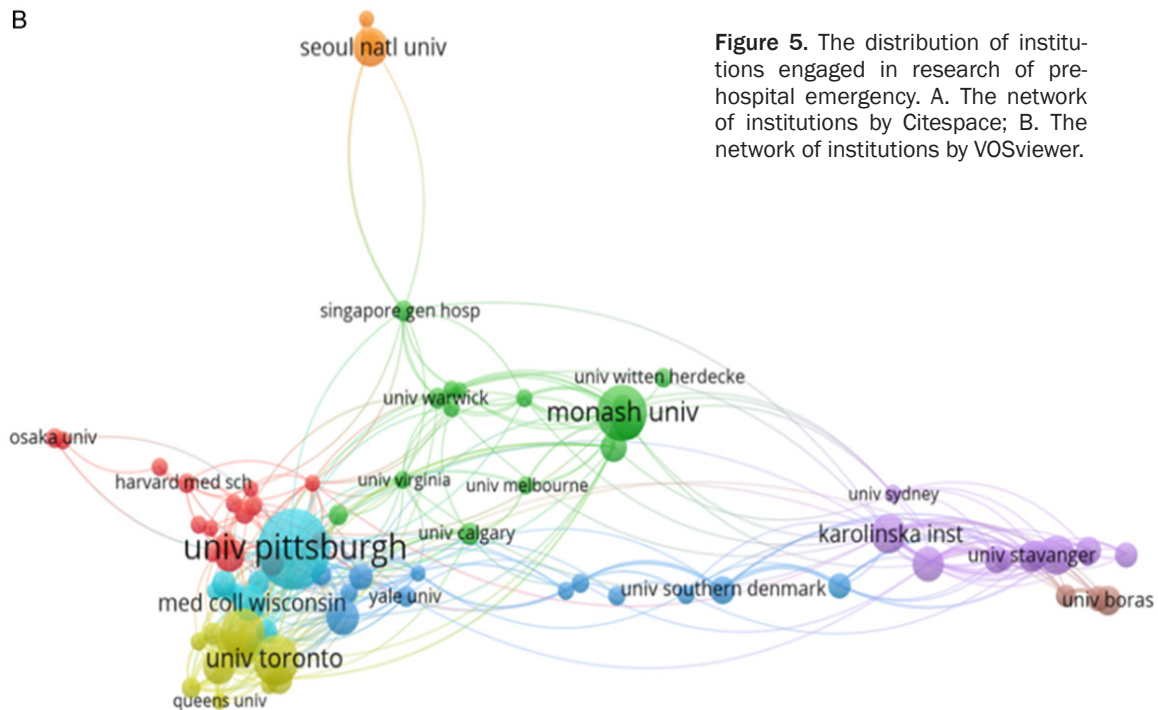


Figure 5. The distribution of institutions engaged in research of pre-hospital emergency. A. The network of institutions by Citespace; B. The network of institutions by VOSviewer.

the future (**Figure 3G**), we believe that most of the contributions will also be made by developed countries. Similarly, we can also speculate that advanced science and technology can help the development of pre-hospital emergency. For example, in a clinical randomized controlled study, the emergence of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, a medical device, increased the survival rate of patients with

respiratory failure from 47% to 63% [11]. And the use of the latest defibrillators, the implantable cardioverter defibrillators, also reduces the likelihood of cardiac arrest in patients with arrhythmia, meanwhile these new technologies were often found in developed countries [12].

The most frequently cited published articles have a high academic impact in a particular

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Table 3. Top 10 authors with most publications in research scope of Pre-hospital emergency

Author	Country	Affiliation	No. of Publications	No. of Citations
Smith K	Australia	Monash University	22	751
Callaway CW	USA	University of Pittsburgh	21	1674
Martin-Gill C	USA	University of Pittsburgh	21	129
Herlitz J	Sweden	University of Boras	19	306
Guyette FX	USA	University of Pittsburgh	18	265
Lossius HM	Norway	Norwegian Air Ambulance Fdn	18	552
Morrison LJ	Canada	University of Toronto	18	635
Mikkelsen S	Denmark	Odense University Hospital	17	132
Shin SD	South Korea	Seoul National University	16	262
Wang HE	USA	University of Texas Austin	16	174

field. We can obtain the detailed information on the top 10 most frequently cited publications in the field of pre-hospital emergency care (**Table 4**). Published on *Circulation* in 2015 as Part 8: The Guidelines for post-cardiac Arrest Care 2015 American Heart Association Guidelines Update for Cardiopulmonary Care [8] was one of the most influential literatures in pre-hospital emergency. What is worth mentioning is that, compared with the guideline issued in 2010 [13], the guideline pays more attention to the personalized treatment with cardiac arrest, which will be a major development trend of pre-hospital emergency and even the whole medicine. And overall, in the top five articles, there are four articles associated with cardiac arrest, and the other three articles associated with cardiac arrest respectively from low temperature induction [14], the survival rate for recovery [15], the use of epinephrine [16] research aspects such as the cardiac arrest, this suggests that cardiac arrest is a research direction has been attracting the attention of scholars.

So far, there have been some excellent articles (**Table 4**) and some high-IF journals (**Table 3**). However, in this field, RRI still presented a rapid rising trend (**Figure 3**). The reasons for the increase of interest may be inseparable from the following two points. On the one hand, with the acceleration of the pace of life, kinds of accidents occur more frequently. For example, the incidence of cardiac arrest [17] and drowning [18] are increasing year by year. According to statistics, the number of deaths caused by organophosphorus poisoning in the world has reached 200,000 [19], while the traffic injury rate has increased from 407/100,000 population in the 1990s to 92.9/100,000 pop-

ulation in 2010-2015 [20]. However, the death rate of traffic decreased from 19.9 per 100,000 populations in the 1990s to 9.3 per 100,000 population in 2010-2015 [20]. It is well-believed that the phenomenon is directly related to the development of pre-hospital emergency. On the other hand, as the medical work elaboration, the requirement of personalized treatment of critically ill patients also gradually be recognized, in the treatment of shock, such as allergic shock, hypotension shock and neurogenic shock, the treatment is different, and different age and gender groups also have different treatments [21], which promoted the research and the development of pre-hospital emergency.

For the top 20 published articles, the United States and Canada accounted for more than half (**Table 2**), and half of the top 10 published authors were from the United States and Canada (**Table 3**). We expect these phenomena to be associated with cooperation between countries. For example, the map based on WOS data shows that the United States has the strongest contact with many countries in this area, especially Canada (**Figure 3**), while other countries have few. So the number of products in other countries was lower than that in the United States and Canada. The phenomenon calls on scientists around the world to push boundaries and bring deeper cooperation. Only in this way, can help promote the development and application of pre-hospital emergency.

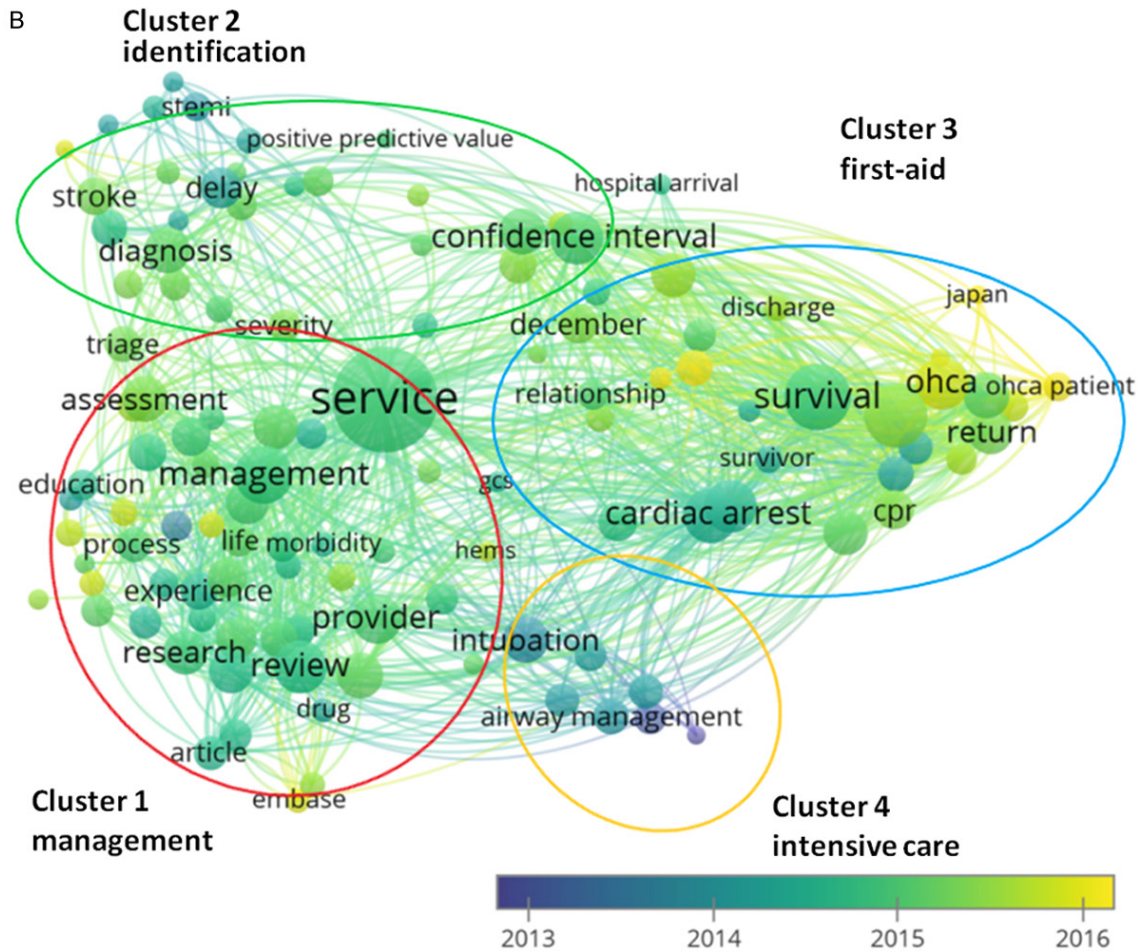
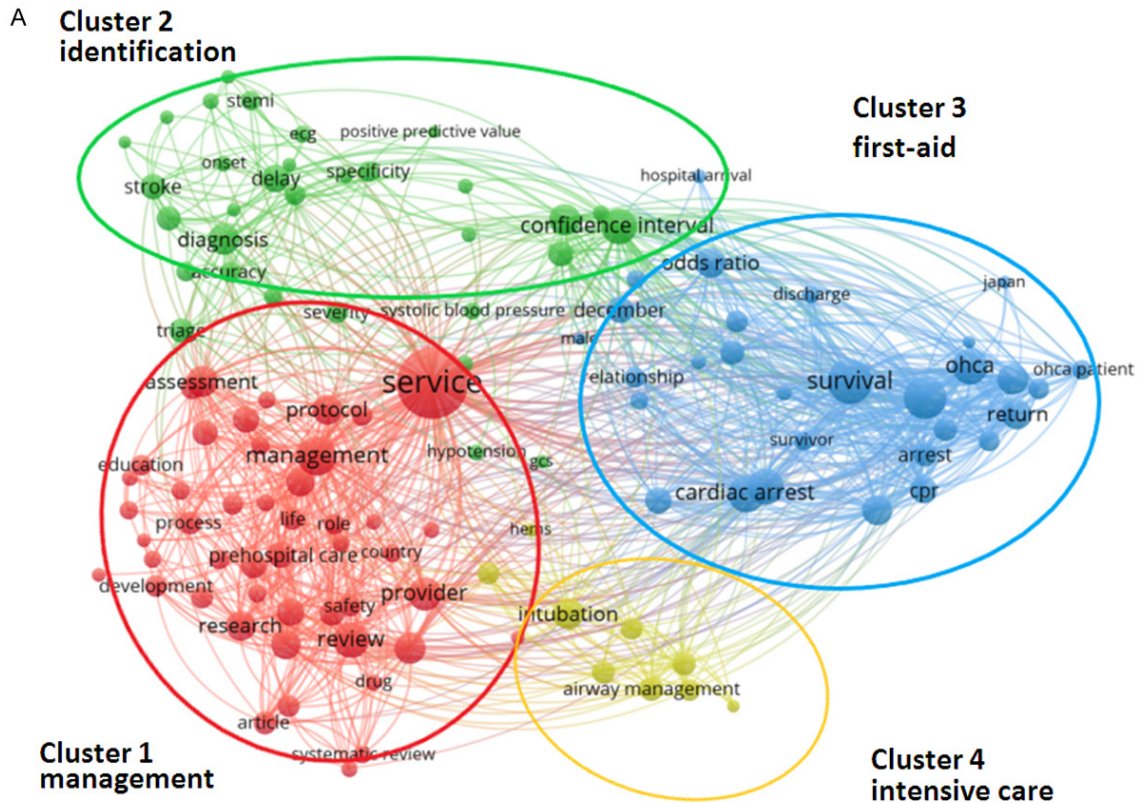
Research focused on pre-hospital emergency

Based on the mapping of bibliographic data obtained from the analysis of all keywords

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Table 4. Top 10 most-cited papers related to Pre-hospital emergency

Title	Corresponding authors	Journal	Publication Year	Total Citations	Corresponding author's country
Part 8: Post-Cardiac Arrest Care 2015 American Heart Association Guidelines Update for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care		CIRCULATION	2015	695	
Effect of Prehospital Induction of Mild Hypothermia on Survival and Neurological Status Among Adults With Cardiac Arrest A Randomized Clinical Trial	Kim, F	JAMA-JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION	2014	367	USA
Survival With Emergency Tourniquet Use to Stop Bleeding in Major Limb Trauma	Kragh, JF	ANNALS OF SURGERY	2009	307	USA
Recent Trends in Survival From Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest in the United States	Chan, PS	CIRCULATION	2014	269	USA
Prehospital Epinephrine Use and Survival Among Patients With Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest	Hagihara, A	JAMA-JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION	2012	277	Japan
The out-of-hospital esophageal and endobronchial intubations performed by emergency physicians	Timmermann, A	ANESTHESIA AND ANALGESIA	2007	240	Germany
Association of Prehospital Advanced Airway Management With Neurologic Outcome and Survival in Patients With Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest	Hasegawa, K	JAMA-JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION	2013	224	USA
Induction of Therapeutic Hypothermia by Paramedics After Resuscitation From Out-of-Hospital Ventricular Fibrillation Cardiac Arrest A Randomized Controlled Trial	Bernard, SA	CIRCULATION	2010	208	Australia
Emergency Medical Services Intervals and Survival in Trauma: Assessment of the "Golden Hour" in a North American Prospective Cohort	Newgard, CD	ANNALS OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE	2010	201	USA
Design and Validation of a Prehospital Stroke Scale to Predict Large Arterial Occlusion The Rapid Arterial Occlusion Evaluation Scale	de la Ossa, NP	STROKE	2014	188	Spain



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Figure 6. The co-occurrence analysis of all keywords in publications of pre-hospital emergency. A. Mapping of the keywords in the area of pre-hospital emergency. The words were divided into 4 clusters in accordance with different colors generated by default: “management” (left in red), “first-aid” (right in blue), and “identification” (up in green), “intensive care” (below in yellow). Size of the circle represented the frequency of keywords; B. Distribution of keywords were presented under occupation to the average time of application. The blue color represented early application and yellow color standing for late application. Two keywords were considered co-occurred if the same line in the corporate file. Smaller distance between 1 two keywords individually related higher co-occurrences of the keyword.

Top 16 Keywords with the Strongest Citation Bursts

Keywords	Year	Strength	Begin	End	2000 - 2020
ventricular fibrillation	2000	6.7971	2000	2014	
emergency medicine	2000	3.6555	2000	2008	
airway	2000	5.9439	2000	2014	
ventilation	2000	9.3627	2000	2014	
emergency	2000	3.0943	2000	2009	
experience	2000	5.5177	2000	2014	
delay	2000	4.6661	2000	2014	
advanced life support	2000	5.2187	2000	2015	
reperfusion	2000	6.6721	2000	2010	
traumatic brain injury	2000	5.0397	2008	2014	
rapid sequence intubation	2000	8.2218	2008	2015	
induction	2000	5.0397	2008	2014	
comatose survivor	2000	5.0757	2009	2014	
implementation	2000	4.5668	2009	2014	
diagnosis	2000	4.5668	2009	2014	
mild hypothermia	2000	4.0581	2009	2014	

Figure 7. The top 16 keywords with the strongest citation bursts during 2000 to 2020. The red bars represent frequently cited keywords during this time period. The green bars represent infrequently cited keywords.

(Figure 6A, 6B), the keywords were divided into four groups, namely identification, management, first aid, and intensive care. The density of keywords generalizes the overall structure of the figure and focuses people’s attention on the most important areas of pre-hospital emergency. However, the cluster of first-aid is relatively new in terms of publication date for the following potential reasons.

First, over the past decade, research has shown a shift towards rapid aid of serious diseases, rather than just the usual in-hospital emergency treatment. The professionalism of on-site treatment directly determines the survival rate of patients. For example, Research results show that the survival rate of patients with cardiac arrest who receive timely professional treatment is significantly higher than those patients who do not receive timely treatment [22]. In addition, with the improvement of in-hospital intervention and evaluation mea-

asures, the development of intensive care units has become increasingly mature. However, the on-site treatment of critically ill patients without adequate first-aid equipment becomes significant. At present, various countries focus their research on the on-site treatment. For example, in Belgium, different first-aid training plans were developed for each age group of children and incorporated into school curricula to respond to emergencies [23]. In Washington State, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) was compulsory for high school students [24]. Those measurements have greatly promoted the development of in the field of pre-hospital emergency.

In terms of the latest research hotspots, Embase from the management research cluster is the latest (cluster 1). As the main database of drugs, Embase has collected 17 million pieces of drug information (including more than 6 million pieces of information collected by Medicine), and the number is still increasing by 600,000 pieces every year [25]. This suggests that the discussion over the use of some medications in pre-hospital emergency care remains intense. For example, epinephrine, as a commonly used drug in cardiac arrest, has not been comprehensively evaluated in clinical practice now. The study of Gavin D, have shown that the use of epinephrine may have adverse effects on the brain and nervous system [26]. Similarly, in the treatment process of patients with arrhythmia, the use of common drugs amiodarone and lidocaine cannot improve the survival rate and prognosis of patients [27]. All these problems need to be discussed and studied. On the other hand, most of the information col-

lected in this database comes from Europe, which is a concentrated region of developed countries [25]. The important guidelines and consensus included consensus statement and practical guidance for pre-hospital management of Stroke [28], Recommendations on pre-hospital & Early hospital management of acute heart failure [29], which were formulated by Europe. Meanwhile the European Citation Council has also formulated a large number of guidelines for the treatment of the shock patients [30]. It also requires that the countries of the world should learn from and communicate with Europe in pre-hospital emergency.

Acute ischemic shock from the identification study cluster (cluster 2) is one of the terms found in the latest study. As a serious disease in the field of pre-hospital emergency, the early identification and diagnosis of acute ischemic shock plays an important role in improving the survival rate of patients. Studies have shown that, as a life-threatening disease, the onset of shock is secretive, especially the cardiogenic hemorrhagic shock with a high mortality [31]. At present, the evaluation of treatment options for ischemic shock remains controversial in the literature, for example, in particular the need for the management of key interventions, such as intubation, mechanical ventilation, or vascular access [32], which may account for the continued increase in interest among researchers in ischemic shock.

Keywords such as secondary results appeared most frequently in the latest study, and primary results ranked third (cluster 3). In our analysis, both of these words come from randomized controlled studies. This suggests that a randomized controlled study is more useful in the study of pre-hospital emergency, such as in the treatment of acute carbon monoxide poisoning. Lindell K used randomized controlled methods, and found in continuous hyperbaric oxygen therapy, could reduce the acute carbon monoxide poisoning cognitive sequelae after 6 weeks and 12 months of risk [19]. Similarly, in the emergency treatment of ankle sprain, Robert J et al. also randomly divided the patients into two groups, and finally concluded that the prognosis of the patients was not improved by adding physical therapy on the basis of conventional treatment [33]. This shows that researchers are also more rigorous and scientific about the study of first aid in the field.

In cluster 4, complications are the most frequently studied words. The survival chain of cardiac arrest consists mainly of early identification, early cardiopulmonary resuscitation, early defibrillation and advanced life support [34]. This means that in current emergency medicine, the early treatment of patients is only part of the treatment, however in intensive care, or advanced life support, it's also important to prevent the patient's complications, for example, the ischemia-reperfusion injury in patients with cardiac arrest is also important [35], and in the secondary prevention of recurrence of patients with cerebral embolism in the process of using dual antiplatelet therapy, can significantly improve the prognosis, reduce recrudescence possibility [36]. All require emergency medicine to pay more attention to the management of complications.

In **Figure 7**, the most popular and longest-lasting word is advanced life support, and new prominent keywords include mild hypothermia. Therefore, we speculate that the treatment of hypothermia in advanced life support will be a trend. Studies have shown that hypothermia therapy after cardiac arrest can reduce the mortality of patients and the probability of nervous system injury [37]. The development of hypothermia like treatment concepts over the past two decades has accelerated advances in advanced life support and pre-hospital emergency care.

This bibliometrics collection collects publications extracted from the Web of Science database. Despite our efforts to make the data objective and reliable. But there will still be shortcomings. Our inclusion criteria limited the content of our study to English articles, while some important but non-English studies on pre-hospital care were ignored. In addition, the database is still constantly updated, so our results may be biased to some extent.

Conclusion

The United States was the most productive country for research on pre-hospital emergency, and global publications will continue to rise and developed countries have contributed more. The focus of keywords gradually shifted to first aid research. It was also recommended to focus on promising research hotspots, such as Embase, acute ischemic shock secondary

results and complications. Our study provided profound insights into the research history and current status of pre-hospital emergency, which may indicate its future trend.

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Supplementary Table 1. The analytic consequence of 117 keywords with at least 45 occurrence times

No.	Label	Cluster	Links	Occurrences	Average appearing years (AAY)	Average citations
1	emergency medicine	1	654	97	2013.6289	13.3299
2	question	1	560	67	2014.1194	18.0149
3	drug	1	502	67	2014.1493	21.5672
4	survey	1	769	107	2014.4393	13.0841
5	emergency physician	1	761	102	2014.4412	16.4118
6	experience	1	1021	136	2014.4485	13.6912
7	lack	1	755	94	2014.5106	14.7553
8	morbidity	1	498	64	2014.5312	18.6094
9	education	1	755	99	2014.5556	16.5657
10	article	1	1035	114	2014.5614	19.3158
11	training	1	1492	185	2014.6	14.1892
12	literature	1	946	113	2014.6018	20.5752
13	medication	1	577	78	2014.6026	14.3077
14	recommendation	1	695	81	2014.6667	22.2963
15	safety	1	793	106	2014.6698	18.0094
16	review	1	1852	236	2014.7161	15.9195
17	emergency	1	1067	141	2014.7447	13.1915
18	role	1	792	96	2014.7812	12.8333
19	management	1	2230	288	2014.8368	15.6424
20	research	1	1415	177	2014.8588	13.8757
21	pain	1	517	78	2014.8718	11.6795
22	service	1	5573	749	2014.8812	15.9092
23	information	1	1211	147	2014.8912	12.6395
24	ems provider	1	548	63	2014.9048	15.4603
25	process	1	939	123	2014.9431	13.748
26	condition	1	1249	171	2014.9591	12.2573
27	quality	1	1188	142	2014.9718	15
28	provider	1	1762	222	2014.973	14.0721
29	practice	1	1246	162	2015.0309	12.5
30	prehospital care	1	1109	149	2015.0805	13.4497
31	development	1	876	110	2015.0818	15.9545
32	protocol	1	1415	182	2015.0879	12.989
33	life	1	840	109	2015.0917	18.422
34	pediatric patient	1	373	49	2015.102	16.1633
35	paper	1	464	55	2015.1091	13.1636
36	order	1	631	80	2015.1125	12.35
37	evidence	1	1669	196	2015.1276	16.898
38	assessment	1	1478	191	2015.2618	14.199
39	systematic review	1	700	73	2015.411	21.726
40	prehospital emergency care	1	357	52	2015.4231	8.9615
41	country	1	680	80	2015.425	14.875
42	decision	1	927	120	2015.4583	11.525
43	knowledge	1	684	83	2015.6386	11.0482
44	nurse	1	594	83	2015.7229	10.2289
45	challenge	1	579	75	2015.7333	13.44

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46	incident	1	481	71	2015.7887	8.2113
47	embase	1	624	63	2015.8254	18.3333
48	stemi	2	624	91	2013.956	16.7143
49	symptom onset	2	337	50	2014.1	20.88
50	delay	2	1187	158	2014.1456	20.4684
51	st segment elevation myocardial infarction	2	354	50	2014.16	18.08
52	acute coronary syndrome	2	376	54	2014.2222	21.3704
53	ecg	2	581	76	2014.25	18
54	door	2	435	64	2014.4219	16.8438
55	gcs	2	386	54	2014.4259	12.3519
56	systolic blood pressure	2	532	75	2014.64	19.5067
57	consecutive patient	2	376	49	2014.6531	27.5306
58	symptom	2	893	126	2014.6825	16.9444
59	trauma center	2	378	64	2014.7656	14.2656
60	positive predictive value	2	391	45	2014.8889	24.4444
61	confidence interval	2	2112	241	2014.9253	20.7593
62	ability	2	610	83	2014.988	10.0602
63	min	2	1601	196	2015.0153	18.5051
64	hospital mortality	2	432	60	2015.0667	16.6333
65	chest pain	2	390	53	2015.0755	8.0943
66	diagnosis	2	1412	195	2015.0821	12.6974
67	specificity	2	881	101	2015.1089	18.6634
68	sensitivity	2	845	101	2015.1485	17.4851
69	onset	2	506	67	2015.1493	23.4627
70	accuracy	2	730	100	2015.21	15.98
71	triage	2	911	124	2015.2258	15.5565
72	hypotension	2	434	65	2015.2308	15.8
73	stroke	2	965	141	2015.234	21.0284
74	severity	2	716	106	2015.283	17.2075
75	identification	2	724	90	2015.2889	11.8222
76	predictor	2	1123	137	2015.3577	13.4745
77	interquartile range	2	446	60	2015.3833	15.5
78	adjustment	2	497	64	2015.5625	20.7656
79	acute ischemic stroke	2	321	47	2015.7872	16.6596
80	arrest	3	1358	129	2014.1628	23.7442
81	hospital discharge	3	1306	118	2014.2288	31.1695
82	survivor	3	779	79	2014.2532	30.6962
83	bystander	3	527	57	2014.4386	19.8246
84	cardiac arrest	3	2252	249	2014.4498	20.9558
85	resuscitation	3	2149	236	2014.4661	24.572
86	hospital arrival	3	518	52	2014.6923	36.4808
87	adult	3	1370	145	2014.7724	24.069
88	hospital admission	3	777	85	2014.8353	20.2824
89	survival	3	3370	348	2014.8391	26.0718
90	relationship	3	869	101	2014.9604	16.505
91	logistic regression	3	992	113	2015.0265	20.4336
92	cardiopulmonary resuscitation	3	1876	177	2015.0847	26.4068
93	spontaneous circulation	3	2148	188	2015.0904	21.6117
94	return	3	2118	187	2015.2246	22.2781

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95	male	3	390	46	2015.2609	11.0652
96	december	3	1223	149	2015.2886	21.7785
97	cpr	3	1654	149	2015.2953	15.4228
98	hospital cardiac arrest	3	3439	330	2015.3303	20.6515
99	duration	3	769	85	2015.3412	20.0471
100	odds ratio	3	1673	184	2015.4457	19.0272
101	discharge	3	783	78	2015.4744	25.5256
102	neurological outcome	3	1101	100	2015.5	23.49
103	rosc	3	1279	104	2015.6635	15.6923
104	hospital cardiac arrest patient	3	535	47	2015.766	19.9362
105	ohca	3	2539	237	2015.7722	17.6624
106	ohca patient	3	1025	87	2015.954	17.092
107	primary outcome	3	1251	127	2016.3937	18.7717
108	japan	3	447	48	2016.4375	23
109	secondary outcome	3	558	57	2016.5789	12.8421
110	eti	4	491	47	2012.9149	28.5532
111	endotracheal intubation	4	931	107	2013.215	24.4486
112	intubation	4	1453	192	2013.8073	21.7552
113	airway management	4	1115	125	2014.008	25.872
114	attempt	4	975	120	2014.025	17.4333
115	airway	4	1034	123	2014.1301	24.2764
116	ventilation	4	951	112	2014.1696	23.1429
117	complication	4	796	111	2014.8288	15.4865