

EDITORIAL

Strategies and challenges on the path toward the international positioning of the journal *Investigación e Innovación Clínica y Quirúrgica Pediátrica*

Estrategias y desafíos en la ruta hacia el posicionamiento internacional de la revista *Investigación e Innovación Clínica y Quirúrgica Pediátrica*

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In the Latin American context, specialized pediatric and surgical practices take place in settings that differ significantly from those in high-income countries. In our region, these scenarios are often more complex due to limited resources, demographic heterogeneity, and diverse epidemiological and morbidity profiles. Within this framework, generating and publishing contextualized knowledge is essential to reduce the evidence gap and strengthen medical practice grounded in local data. In response to this need, our journal, *Investigación e Innovación Clínica y Quirúrgica Pediátrica*, emerged as a platform dedicated to disseminating research in child health.

Indexing in international scientific databases represents a key milestone in the consolidation and advancement of academic journals, as it enhances the visibility, accessibility, recognition, and citation of research findings by the global scientific community.

After publishing five consecutive issues since June 2023, *Investigación e Innovación Clínica y Quirúrgica Pediátrica* was included in the LATINDEX Catalog 2.0, a distinction that certifies compliance with rigorous editorial quality standards and aligns the journal with best practices in scientific communication across Ibero-America (1). These criteria encompass aspects related to article presentation, website functionality and accessibility, as well as editorial management and policy.

Indexation in regional scientific databases such as LATINDEX represents the first step toward increasing the journal's visibility, impact, and internationalization. These platforms play a crucial role in the regional academic ecosystem, disseminating locally generated knowledge to related scientific communities that often lack context-adapted evidence available in their native language. As Meneghini and Packer (2) note, this practice helps overcome linguistic barriers in scientific communication and contributes to advancing the global publishing system.

The editorial team has defined a phased plan for the progressive inclusion of the journal in other regional and international databases, based on an analysis of the complexity of application requirements. In the short term, the goal is to achieve indexing in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), which certifies the editorial quality of open-access journals.

In the medium term, applications are planned for regional databases, including the Red Iberoamericana de Innovación y Conocimiento Científico (REDIB), the Red de Revistas Científicas de América Latina y el Caribe, España y Portugal (REDALYC), and Literatura Latinoamericana y del Caribe en Ciencias de la Salud (LILACS). These platforms have substantially contributed to improving the evaluation of Latin American publications in our language, establishing systematic quality control processes, and progressively transforming the international perception of so-called "second-tier publications" (3).

Although the Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO) is considered a regional database, its indexing criteria are more demanding, as it serves as a space that consolidates the international projection of Latin American science. In this regard, in the long term, applications are planned for SciELO along with broader-reaching databases such as PubMed Central (PMC) and the Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System Online (MEDLINE), both recognized for their high scientific and editorial standards.

Ultimately, the long-term objective is to be included in Scopus and Web of Science (WoS), the two most influential global databases. In addition to editorial quality, both evaluate the scientific relevance of articles, the rigor of peer review, and impact metrics derived from citations (4–5). Inclusion in these databases provides access to indicators such as the Journal Impact Factor (WoS) and SCImago Journal Rank (Scopus), which reflect the journal's influence and visibility worldwide.

Future indexations will require not only maintaining and strengthening scientific quality to enhance article citations but also consolidating editorial management through practices aligned with international standards. This process demands the sustained collaboration of authors, reviewers, academic institutions, and professional and scientific societies. These stakeholders contribute by conducting high-quality research that addresses issues in specialized pediatrics, actively participating in peer review, and promoting published articles. Likewise, the editorial team provides knowledge, experience, and critical judgment, thereby helping to raise the scientific standards of the journal.

The indexation of Latin American academic journals is part of a comprehensive strategy to strengthen scientific research within the international arena. Accordingly, the editorial team is committed to supporting each stage of the proposed indexation plan with the necessary rigor, aiming to achieve inclusion in the targeted databases and to ultimately increase the visibility of both the published articles and the journal itself. These actions will consolidate *Investigación e Innovación Clínica y Quirúrgica Pediátrica* as a reliable and accessible platform that ensures the dissemination of scientific knowledge for the benefit of the pediatric community.

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