Proper citation in JBJS and JOT of the OTA/AO classification

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Objective:
The objective of this journal review was to determine the frequency and accuracy of citation of the OTA/AO classification system in two orthopedic surgery journals, The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery (JBJS) and The Journal of Orthopedic Trauma (JOT).

Methods:
The table of contents for the 2011 and 2012 issues of JBJS and JOT were reviewed for all articles that contained the word fracture(s) in the title. PDF's of these articles were made and each article was reviewed by two independent reviewers to determine if the OTA/AO classification was appropriate for use in the article. If it was determined that the OTA/AO classification was appropriate for use in the article then the article was categorized as:

1. OTA/AO 2007 Citation used correctly
2. OTA/AO Cited in text without any reference or improper reference
3. OTA/AO classification not used in article

Proper citation of the OTA/AO classification was considered:

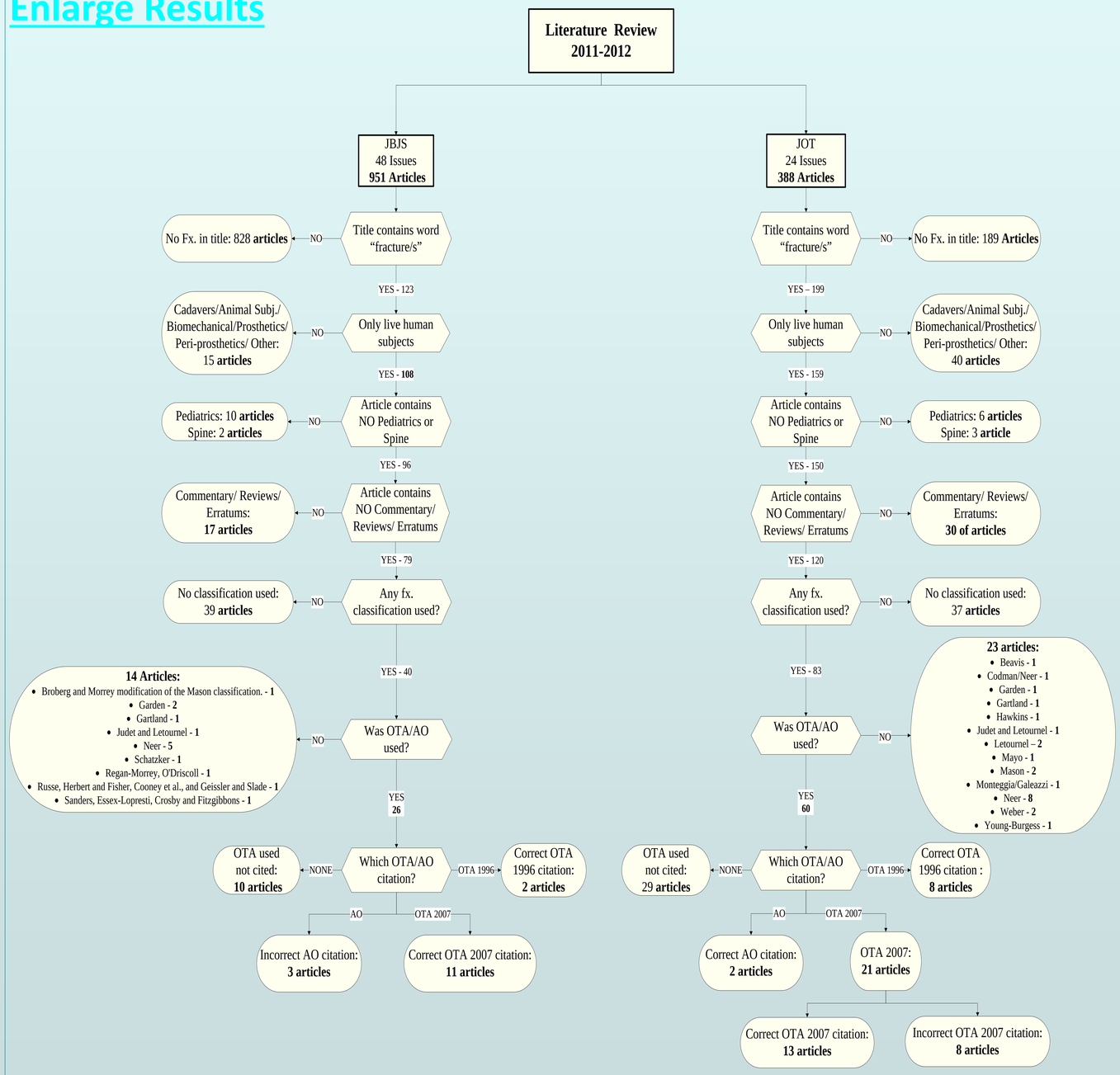
Marsh JL, Slongo TF, Agel J, et al. *Fracture and dislocation classification compendium - 2007: Orthopaedic Trauma Association classification, database and outcomes committee.* J Orthop Trauma. 2007;21(10 Suppl):S1 133.

Proper citation of the AO classification was considered:

Müller ME, Nazarian S, Koch P, et al. *The Comprehensive Classification of Fractures of Long Bones.* Berlin:Springer-Verlag, 1990

Result:

Enlarge Results



Conclusion:
Proper usage of the OTA/AO classification is important to allow clinicians to be able to compare fractures across clinical research using the same terminology. Proper citation of the OTA/AO classification ensures that the classification is being used appropriately by returning to the original source documentation and allows external readers to review the appropriate source documentation as well. Journal editors and reviewers need to be reminded of the appropriate citations for the classification system.