

Assessment of statistical methods used in Chilean medical literature Evaluación de utilización de los métodos estadísticos en la investigación en salud

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Background: Computer use has lead to a great development of statistical methods. **Aim:** To assess the use of statistical methods in Chilean medical literature. **Methods:** Two hundred sixty four papers appeared in Revista Médica de Chile and Revista Chilena de Pediatría between 1983 and 1993 were reviewed. **Results:** Student's "t", Fisher's, and χ^2 test are the most frequently used statistical methods in 67% of papers. Correlation coefficients are used in 10% of papers. Multivariate methods are seldom used. **Conclusions:** Statistical analysis of papers published in Chilean medical journals is restricted to very few methods.