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Global mapping of interventions to improve the quality of life of patients with cardiovascular diseases during 1990–2018



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Abstract

Background: Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) have been the global health problems that cause a substantial burden for the patients and the society. Assessing the Quality of Life (QOL) of CVD patients is critical in the effectiveness evaluation of CVD treatments as well as in determining potential areas for enhancing health outcomes. Through the adoption of a combination of bibliometric approach and content analysis, publications trend and the common topics regarding interventions to improve QOL of CVD patients were searched and characterized to inform priority setting and policy development.

Methods: Bibliographic data of publications published from 1990 to 2018 on interventions to improve QOL of CVD patients were retrieved from Web of Science. Network graphs illustrating the terms co-occurrence clusters were created by VOSviewer software. Latent Dirichlet Allocation approach was adopted to classify papers into major research topics.

Results: A total of 6457 papers was analyzed. We found a substantial increase in the number of publications, citations, and the number of download times of papers in the last 5 years. There has been a rise in the number of papers related to intervention to increase quality of life among patients with CVD during 1990–2018. Conventional therapies (surgery and medication), and psychological, behavioral interventions were common research topics. Meanwhile, the number of papers evaluating economic effectiveness has not been as high as that of other topics.

Conclusions: The research areas among the scientific studies emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary and intersectoral approaches in both evaluation and intervention. Future research should be a focus on economic evaluation of intervention as well as interventions to reduce mental issues among people with CVD.

Keywords: Scientometrics, Content analysis, Text mining, Interventions, CVD, QOL, Global, Mapping

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Background

Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) have been the global health problem with rising prevalence, incidence, and death rates. In 2017, 31.8% (17.79 million cases) of global deaths were attributed to CVDs, plus nearly 336 million disability-adjusted life-years (DALY) [1]. Ischemic heart disease (IHD) and stroke account for the highest standardized death rate among CVD causes [2]. Episodes of CVDs have complex, long term impacts on the life of patients, which is far beyond survivorship, since their consequences cause impairments in physical and cognitive functioning, which, in turn, limit the daily activities and social interactions of the survivors [3–7].

Achieving good quality of life (QOL), therefore, is crucial to patients suffering from heart and stroke diseases [3, 8]. According to the definition of World Health Organization on QOL, QOL is "affected in a complex way by the person's physical health, psychological state, personal beliefs, social relationships and their relationship to salient features of their environment" [9]. QOL can be considered as one of the most important outcomes in healthcare, particularly among patients with CVDs [10]. Deterioration of QOL among CVD patients is positively correlated with higher rates of hospital readmission and fatality [11, 12]. Hence, assessing the QOL of CVD patients is critical when evaluating the effectiveness of CVD treatments and determining which aspects should be improved.

There is a remarkable growth in the body of literature regarding manners to improve the QOL of people with heart and stroke diseases. These implications range from healthier lifestyle encouragement [13] to the incorporation of mental health treatments into routine CVDs management [6]. Moreover, some initiatives have been implemented comprising: adoption of collaborative care models [14]; support and counseling of CVD specialists in the primary care setting to people at-risk of CVDs [15]; or adoption of surgical procedures, for instance, coronary artery bypass graft surgery (CABG) instead of percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) [16].

Several systematic reviews worked on interventions that could improve the QOL of people with heart and stroke diseases. For example, life-style interventions at the work-place could decrease the risk of CVD [17], or community-based nursing interventions increase the outcome of treatment for people with CVD [18]. Besides, Widmer et al. confirmed the effectiveness of digital health interventions for the prevention of cardiovascular disease [19]. Despite the abundance of documents on the QOL and interventions targeting people with heart and stroke diseases, there is a lack of publications offering a 'big picture' of the interaction between interventions and QOL among CVD patients. This limits the ability of healthcare providers and policymakers to identify pathways to efficiently allocate scarce resources in CVD treatment.

The bibliometric approach has been proposed to be a potential solution given the capacity to provide a comprehensive and holistic investigation of the literature. By combining bibliometric approach and content analysis, we aimed at providing an interdisciplinary insights into research areas as well as characterizing the most common topics regarding interventions to improve QOL of CVD patients. Our findings can inform priority setting and policy development towards sustainable efforts of enhancing the lives of people with these conditions.

Methods

Search strategy, keywords, data download and extraction

The published works regarding the QOL of CVD patients were downloaded from the Web of Science (WOS). For bibliometric analysis, the WOS is superior to Scopus or Medline/Pubmed because it: 1) allows to extract a large number of with full information (e.g titles, author names, total citation, total download times); 2) covers citation of scientific publications since 1900; and 3) comprises high impact scientific journals worldwide [20, 21]. Data were collected in March 2019; thus, we excluded the publications from 1st January 2019 onwards. The analysis focused on English articles and reviews, therefore, other document types such as letter to editors, or conference abstracts in any other languages were excluded. Two steps of the search strategy were performed as follow:

- Step 1: The terms "Quality of life", and "well-being" were used to extract scientific research mentioning Quality of life on TS research in WOS (title, abstract, keywords, and topic) (see Additional file 1). Data were downloaded separately by two researchers and verified by a senior researcher. Any inconsistency between the data downloaded by the two researchers was solved by discussion and the data were re-downloaded when necessary. Papers which were 1) not articles and reviews; 2) not published in English; 3) written by anonymous authors. Final set of data was converted into txt format and transferred into STATA version 14.0 (STATACorp., Texas, USA) for further extraction and analysis.
- Step 2: A set of keywords related to CVDs was built, which based on the definition of World Health Organization (WHO), ("Coronary heart disease" OR "Heart failure" OR "Rheumatic Heart Disease" OR "Cerebrovascular disease") [22], MeSH terms ("Cardiac arrhythmias" OR "Carcinoid heart disease" OR "Cardiac conduction system disease" OR "High cardiac output" OR "Low cardiac output" OR "Cardiomegaly" OR "Endocarditis" OR "heart aneurysm" OR "Heart arrest" OR "Congenital heart defects" OR "Heart neoplasms" OR "Heart rupture" OR "Heart attack" OR "Heart valve disease" OR

Table 1 Summary of analytical techniques for each data types

| Type of data | Unit of analysis | Analytical methods | Presentations of results |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Keywords | Words | Frequency of co-occurrence | 1) Map of authors' keywords |
| Abstracts | Papers | Latent Dirichlet Allocation | 2) Ten classifications of research topics |
| WoS classification of research areas | WoS research areas | Frequency of co-occurrence | 3) Dendrogram of research disciplines (WoS classification) |

"Myocardial ischemia" OR "Myocardial Ischemia" OR "Pericardial Effusion" OR "Pericarditis" OR "Ventricular Dysfunction" OR "Ventricular Outflow Obstruction" OR "Cardiovascular abnormalities" OR "Vascular malformations" OR "Cardiovascular infections") [23], some systematic reviews (such as ("Ischemic heart disease" OR "Heart attack" OR "Stroke" OR "ischemic stroke" OR "Hemorrhagic stroke" OR "brain attack") [24, 25]. Then, we used

the terms "intervention*" or "trial*" to extract the papers regarding the intervention of this health problem (see Additional file 2).

Data analysis

First, basic characteristics of publications were described, which included 1) years of publication; 2) the number of papers per year; 3) total citations of each year up to 2018 (from 1990 to 2018); 4) a total of download times (total

Table 2 General characteristics of publications

| Year published | Total number of papers | Total citations | Mean cite rate per year | Total usage last 6 month | Total usage last 5 years | Mean use rate last 6 month | Mean use rate last 5 year | |
|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 2018 | 700 | 737 | 1.05 | 1953 | 3045 | 2.79 | 0.87 | |
| 2017 | 659 | 3666 | 2.78 | 989 | 4769 | 1.50 | 1.45 | |
| 2016 | 578 | 6871 | 3.96 | 697 | 6667 | 1.21 | 2.31 | |
| 2015 | 552 | 8684 | 3.93 | 533 | 6975 | 0.97 | 2.53 | |
| 2014 | 464 | 9118 | 3.93 | 343 | 5737 | 0.74 | 2.47 | |
| 2013 | 463 | 12,830 | 4.62 | 314 | 7335 | 0.68 | 3.17 | |
| 2012 | 431 | 13,162 | 4.36 | 273 | 5818 | 0.63 | 2.70 | |
| 2011 | 365 | 12,192 | 4.18 | 214 | 4187 | 0.59 | 2.29 | |
| 2010 | 309 | 12,414 | 4.46 | 209 | 3095 | 0.68 | 2.00 | |
| 2009 | 269 | 12,780 | 4.75 | 152 | 2357 | 0.57 | 1.75 | |
| 2008 | 238 | 9916 | 3.79 | 125 | 1963 | 0.53 | 1.65 | |
| 2007 | 241 | 14,878 | 5.14 | 109 | 1883 | 0.45 | 1.56 | |
| 2006 | 184 | 12,221 | 5.11 | 71 | 1328 | 0.39 | 1.44 | |
| 2005 | 182 | 14,436 | 5.67 | 64 | 1361 | 0.35 | 1.50 | |
| 2004 | 159 | 15,142 | 6.35 | 118 | 1958 | 0.74 | 2.46 | |
| 2003 | 119 | 9924 | 5.21 | 47 | 737 | 0.39 | 1.24 | |
| 2002 | 103 | 14,757 | 8.43 | 48 | 958 | 0.47 | 1.86 | |
| 2001 | 72 | 7578 | 5.85 | 30 | 493 | 0.42 | 1.37 | |
| 2000 | 77 | 7457 | 5.10 | 17 | 397 | 0.22 | 1.03 | |
| 1999 | 66 | 6225 | 4.72 | 24 | 421 | 0.36 | 1.28 | |
| 1998 | 58 | 3524 | 2.89 | 14 | 221 | 0.24 | 0.76 | |
| 1997 | 35 | 2735 | 3.55 | 12 | 229 | 0.34 | 1.31 | |
| 1996 | 36 | 2995 | 3.62 | 6 | 104 | 0.17 | 0.58 | |
| 1995 | 23 | 3295 | 5.97 | 3 | 147 | 0.13 | 1.28 | |
| 1994 | 23 | 1451 | 2.52 | 5 | 70 | 0.22 | 0.61 | |
| 1993 | 26 | 842 | 1.25 | 6 | 29 | 0.23 | 0.22 | |
| 1992 | 13 | 599 | 1.71 | 0 | 31 | 0.00 | 0.48 | |
| 1991 | 11 | 2880 | 9.35 | 6 | 71 | 0.55 | 1.29 | |
| 1990 | 1 | 40 | 1.38 | 0 | 1 | 0.00 | 0.20 | |

usage) and average download times per year (mean usage per year) in the last 6 months; and 5) total of download times (total usage) and the average number of citation per year (mean citation rate per year) in the last 5 years. A network graph showing the co-occurrence of authors' keywords was generated by the VOSviewer software tool (https://www.vosviewer.com/). The Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA), a generative statistical model, was used for classifying publications into topics [26–30]. The LDA approach was selected because of its ability to group and explain trends and patterns in text content. The techniques used for each type of type are presented in Table 1.

Results

Number of published items and publication trend

Table 2 reveals the characteristics of selected publications. The first paper was published in 1990. Then, there was a gradual increase in the number of interventions to improve QOL of patients with stroke and heart diseases during 1990–2018, resulting in a total of 6457 papers. Besides, the total number of download times (total usage), and the average number of download times (the mean use rate) in the last 5 years of papers published in 2013 were the highest compared with other years. Meanwhile, the total usage and the mean use rate last 6 months of the year 2019 were the highest figures

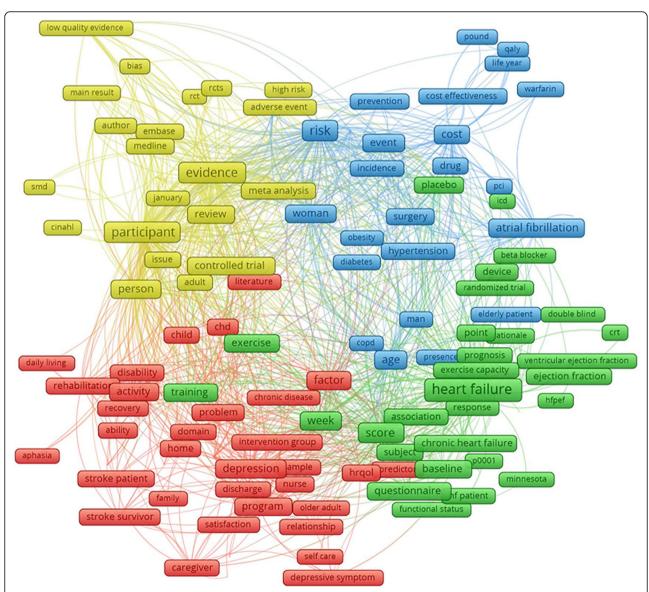


Fig. 1 Co-occurrence of authors' keywords. Note: the weight of a keyword determined its size of the label. The length of the lines shows the relatedness of keywords

Table 3 Most cited papers

| | Title | Journal | Cite | Year | Cite rate |
|----|--|--|------|------|--------------|
| 1 | Cardiac resynchronization in chronic heart failure | New England journal of medicine | 3095 | 2002 | |
| 2 | Prevention of stroke by antihypertensive drug-treatment in older persons with isolated systolic hypertension - final results of the systolic hypertension in the elderly program (shep) | JAMA-journal of the American medical association | 2233 | 1991 | 80 |
| 3 | A randomized trial of the angiotensin-receptor blocker valsartan in chronic heart failure | New England journal of medicine | 1887 | 2001 | 105 |
| 4 | Advanced Heart Failure Treated with Continuous-Flow Left Ventricular Assist Device | New England journal of medicine | 1625 | 2009 | 163 |
| 5 | A multidisciplinary intervention to prevent the readmission of elderly patients with congestive-heart-failure | New England journal of medicine | 1481 | 1995 | 62 |
| 6 | Exercise-based rehabilitation for patients with coronary heart disease: Systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials | American journal of medicine | 1268 | 2004 | 85 |
| 7 | Evidence suggesting that a chronic disease self-management program can improve health status while reducing hospitalization - A randomized trial | Medical care | 1189 | 1999 | 59 |
| 8 | Lifetime risk for development of atrial fibrillation - The Framingham Heart Study | Circulation | 1100 | 2004 | 73 |
| 9 | Combined cardiac resynchronization and implantable cardioversion defibrillation in advanced chronic heart failure - The MIRACLE ICD Trial | JAMA-journal of the American medical association | 1026 | 2003 | 64 |
| 10 | Effect of constraint-induced movement therapy on upper extremity function 3 to 9 months after stroke - The EXCITE randomized clinical trial | JAMA-journal of the American medical association | 1022 | 2006 | 79 |
| 11 | Treatment of heart failure guided by plasma aminoterminal brain natriuretic peptide (N-BNP) concentrations | Lancet | 996 | 2000 | 52 |
| 12 | Early decompressive surgery in malignant infarction of the middle cerebral artery: a pooled analysis of three randomised controlled trials | Lancet neurology | 849 | 2007 | 71 |
| 13 | Effects of controlled-release metoprolol on total mortality, hospitalizations, and well-being in patients with heart failure - The metoprolol CR/XL randomized intervention trial in congestive heart failure (MERIT-HF) | JAMA-journal of the American medical association | 837 | 2000 | 44 |
| 14 | Collaborative Care for Patients with Depression and Chronic Illnesses. | New England journal of medicine | 767 | 2010 | 85 |
| 15 | Evaluation study of congestive heart failure and pulmonary artery catheterization effectiveness - The ESCAPE trial | JAMA-journal of the American medical association | 651 | 2005 | 47 |
| 16 | Spironolactone for Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction | New England journal of medicine | 618 | 2014 | 124 |
| 17 | Continuous positive airway pressure for central sleep apnea and heart failure | New England journal of medicine | 612 | 2005 | 44 |
| 18 | Long-term benefits of biventricular pacing in congestive heart failure: Results from the multisite stimulation in cardiomyopathy (MUSTIC) study | Journal of the American college of cardiology | 606 | 2002 | 36 |
| 19 | Exercise training meta-analysis of trials in patients with chronic heart failure (extramatch) | BMJ-British medical journal | 535 | 2004 | 36 |
| 20 | Catheter ablation for atrial fibrillation in congestive heart failure | New England journal of medicine | 533 | 2004 | 36 |
| 21 | Does increased access to primary care reduce hospital readmissions? | New England journal of medicine | 504 | 1996 | 22 |
| 22 | Cardiac resynchronization and death from progressive heart failure - A meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials | JAMA-journal of the American medical association | 501 | 2003 | 31 |
| 23 | Effect of Phosphodiesterase-5 Inhibition on Exercise Capacity and Clinical Status in Heart Failure With Preserved Ejection Fraction A Randomized Clinical Trial | JAMA-journal of the American medical association | 493 | 2013 | 82 |
| 24 | Menopausal Hormone Therapy and Health Outcomes During the Intervention and Extended Poststopping Phases of the Women's Health Initiative Randomized Trials | JAMA-journal of the American medical association | 475 | 2013 | 79 |

Table 3 Most cited papers (Continued)

| | Title | Journal | Cite | Year | Cite rate |
|----|---|---|------|------|--------------|
| 25 | Anger, anxiety, and depression as risk factors for cardiovascular disease: The problems and implications of overlapping affective dispositions | Psychological bulletin | 460 | 2005 | 33 |
| 26 | Cardiac resynchronization therapy for the treatment of heart failure in patients with intraventricular conduction delay and malignant ventricular tachyarrhythmias | Journal of the American college of cardiology | 448 | 2003 | 28 |
| 27 | The association of depression and anxiety with medical symptom burden in patients with chronic medical illness | General hospital psychiatry | 441 | 2007 | 37 |
| 28 | Combined intravenous and intra-arterial r-TPA versus intra-arterial therapy of acute ischemic stroke - Emergency management of stroke (EMS) bridging trial | Stroke | 441 | 1999 | 22 |
| 29 | Double-blind, placebo-controlled study of the effects of carvedilol in patients with moderate to severe heart failure - The PRECISE trial | Circulation | 435 | 1996 | 19 |
| 30 | Sex differences in stroke: epidemiology, clinical presentation, medical care, and outcomes | Lancet neurology | 428 | 2008 | 39 |
| 31 | A dose-dependent increase in mortality with vesnarinone among patients with severe heart failure | New England journal of medicine | 425 | 1998 | 20 |
| 32 | Surgical decompression for space-occupying cerebral infarction (the Hemicraniectomy After Middle Cerebral Artery infarction with Life-threatening Edema Trial [HAMLET]): a multi-centre, open, randomised trial | Lancet neurology | 424 | 2009 | 42 |
| 33 | Statins for the primary prevention of cardiovascular disease | Cochrane database of systematic reviews | 423 | 2013 | 71 |
| 34 | Effects of a multidisciplinary, home-based intervention on unplanned readmissions and survival among patients with chronic congestive heart failure: a randomised controlled study | Lancet | 407 | 1999 | 20 |
| 35 | Beraprost therapy for pulmonary arterial hypertension | Journal of the American college of cardiology | 404 | 2003 | 25 |
| 36 | Effect of Cinacalcet on Cardiovascular Disease in Patients Undergoing Dialysis | New England journal of medicine | 403 | 2012 | 58 |
| 37 | A randomized controlled trial of epoprostenol therapy for severe congestive heart failure: The Flolan International Randomized Survival Trial (FIRST) | American heart journal | 400 | 1997 | 18 |

compared with that of other years, which indicated the short-term interest of readers,

The scope of studies was explored by using authors' keywords, which was automatically mapped by the VOS-viewer software tool. Figure 1 indicates four major clusters emerged from 164 most common keywords which appeared at least 200 times. Cluster 1 (red) refers to the quality of life, rehabilitation, and mental health illness of stroke patients. Cluster 2 (green) focuses on the daily exercise of patients with heart failure. Cluster 3 (yellow) includes types of analysis applied to identify the QOL among patients with heart diseases and stroke. Cluster 4 (blue) illustrates the risk factors, prevention, and cost-effectiveness of interventions for CVD.

Table 3 shows the most cited papers which had at least 400 citations. The title and abstract of each paper were reviewed by the research team and assigned to corresponding topics. Three major topics have been emerged encompassing: 1) Treatment of stroke or heart diseases (24/39 papers); 2) Preventions of stroke or heart diseases (8/39 papers), and 3) Others (systematic review and meta-analysis) (5/39 papers).

The LDA was utilized to model the research topics based on texts in the abstracts and a total of ten major research topics was constructed (Table 4). Each topic was labeled by reviewing titles and abstracts of most cited papers within each group. Ten topics were divided into the following categories: 1) conventional therapies: topic 5, and topic 7; 2) other therapies: topic 2, topic 3, topic 4, topic 6, topic 8, topic 9, and topic 10. Figure 2 illustrates that recently, researchers have paid greater attention to two research topics focusing on biomedical therapies (topic 1), which are now under research and trial, as well as psychological and behavioral therapies for people with heart diseases (Topic 2).

Figure 3 presents the clusters of research areas in the interventions aiming to improve QOL of CVD patients. The horizontal axis shows the distance between research areas while the vertical axis shows the research areas based on WOS categories. The research areas in these interventions could be divided into three categories 1) Cardiovascular System; 2) Prevention, Treatment (Surgery, Internal Medicine, Pharmacy and Rehabilitation); 3) Health Policy and Economic evaluation. Overall, the dendrogram indicates that health services and economics studies have not been well studied. Also, holistic (e.g., system) factors and frontline interactions with patients (e.g., nursing) seem to have influential effects on QOL of CVD patients.

Table 4 Ten research topics classified by LDA

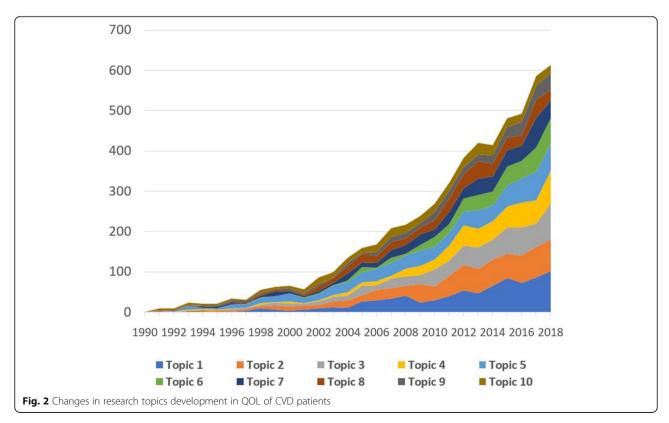
| Rank by the highest volume last 5 years | Research topics | Ν | Percent |
|---|--|-----|---------|
| Topic 1 | Gene, Cell and Biomedical Therapies for heart diseases | 799 | 14.1% |
| Topic 2 | Psychological, Behavioral and Social impairments of patients with heart diseases | 794 | 14.0% |
| Topic 3 | Health Education, Motivation and Behavioral Interventions | 670 | 11.8% |
| Topic 4 | Technology-based, Robot-assisted Interventions on patients with Stroke | 563 | 9.9% |
| Topic 5 | Clinical, drug therapies for heart failure | 751 | 13.2% |
| Topic 6 | Traditional and Alternative Medicine for heart diseases | 426 | 7.5% |
| Topic 7 | Cardiac Surgeries and Interventions | 506 | 8.9% |
| Topic 8 | Economic Evaluation of Interventions on Patients with heart diseases and stroke | 457 | 8.1% |
| Topic 9 | Physical Activity and Exercise training for patients with heart failure | 315 | 5.5% |
| Topic 10 | Effectiveness of hormone replacement therapy on heart diseases | 396 | 7.0% |

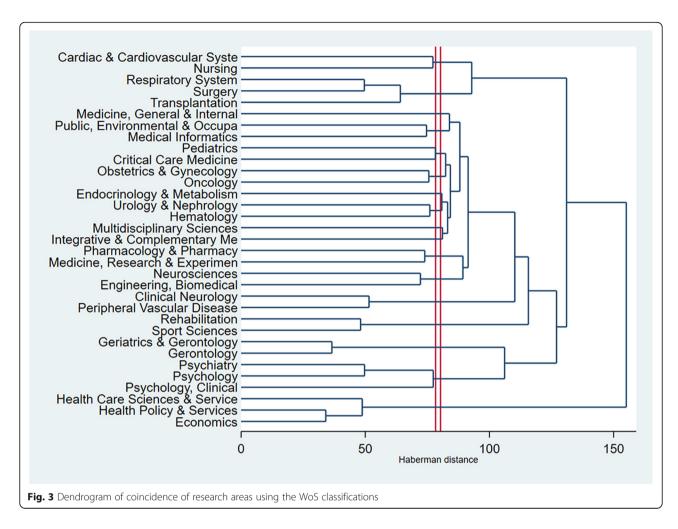
Discussion

In this study, a total of 6457 papers was analyzed to identify the global trend and the development of research landscapes in the intervention to improve QOL of CVD patients from 1990 to 2018. The number of papers increased gradually since 2002 and reached a peak in the year of 2018. By applying text mining technique based on LDA, the interdisciplinary research topics and research areas were examined in detail. The most common topics were conventional treatment (surgery and medication), and psychological, behavioral interventions.

Our study proposed a novel approach for analyzing literature that overcomes the limitations of current systematic review/meta-analysis. Indeed, the traditional systematic review and meta-analysis cannot efficiently illustrate the research development trend as this method consumes time and human resources [31]. Meanwhile, scientometrics, when standing on its own, shows the productivity, collaborations among authors, organizations, or countries and co-occurrence of author keywords, however, the approach is unable to identify the research topics underlying the current literature [32]. By combining bibliometrics and text analysis, the study was able to explore the hidden patterns of information from the literature.

This study provides an overview of interdisciplinary research landscapes in the interventions to improve QOL





of CVD patients. The majority of interventions for CVDs were conventional therapies, such as surgery and medication, or psychological and behavioral interventions. Historically, the use of medications has been a primary method of CVD treatment [33], given the lower costs of drug treatment compared to hospitalization and effectiveness in relieving symptoms, which mainly aim to slow down the disease progression and improve patients' QoL [34]. The number of patients with end-stage heart diseases as well as the introduction of the heart-lung machine and cardiopulmonary bypass leads to the increase of surgical treatment and the number of papers mentioning this therapy, which was also confirmed by other studies [35]. Besides, several associated factors to CVDs, such as obesity, smoking, and sedentary lifestyle, have been proved in previous studies [36, 37], leading to a rise in the published works regarding interventions focusing in lifestyle changes to prevent the onset of CVD episode and elevate the patients' QOL. Notably, traditional and alternative medicine gained the concern of scientists in the last 5 years (2014-2018). This result was in the same line with previous studies [38, 39]. It might be explained that patients believed in these approaches to reduce side-effects of conventional therapy [39], yet, there has been a lack of data for the pattern use of alternative therapy for CVDs [38]. In addition, the development of technology has enabled the research of gene therapy or robot-assistant in CVD treatment [40]. However, gene therapy has shown modest success in clinical translation [41]. Meanwhile, robot-assistant has been tried and is being investigated for rehabilitation among patients after stroke [42, 43].

Findings of this study have provided several important implications for setting priority in research, designing interventions, and improving quality of care for CVD patients. Firstly, we call for interdisciplinary approaches, specifically, the integration of research areas, such as health services in providing medical care, and psychosocio-behavioral interventions at the individual, family, health facility, and community levels. Besides, more research should be focused on the economic aspects of interventions for CVD. Finally, there has been a lack of research on interventions to reduce mental problems (e.g., depression or stress) among people with CVD; hence, future research should focus on this phenomenon since

mental issues were significant risk factors for CVD [44, 45].

Our study has several limitations. First, the choice of using WOS as the only database might limit the coverage of all possible publications in interventions to improve QoL of patients with CVD compared with Google Scholar [46], or Scopus [47]. However, a previous study recommended using WoS in the case of only one available database [48]. Second, only peer-reviewed publications in the English language were included, which might have resulted in a bias against non-English publications. Furthermore, only titles and abstracts were used for content analysis, which might not provide a deep insight intro research themes of the dataset. Hence, our findings should be interpreted with caution.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the number of scientific published works on the interventions to improve QOL among people with CVD has gradually increased from 1990 to 2018. The research areas in the field of the study emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral approaches in both evaluation and intervention. Conventional therapy (surgery and medication), and psychological and behavioral interventions were the common approach. Future research should focus on economic evaluation of intervention as well as interventions to reduce mental issues among people with CVD.

Supplementary information

Supplementary information accompanies this paper at https://doi.org/10. 1186/s12955-020-01507-9.

Additional file 1. Search query for "Quality of life" and "well-being". Number of papers by countries as study settings

Additional file 2. Selection process

Abbreviations

CABG: Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery; CVDs: Cardiovascular Diseases; DALY: Disability-Adjusted Life-Years; IHD: Ischemic Heart Disease; LDA: Latent Dirichlet Allocation; PCI: Percutaneous Coronary Intervention; QOL: Quality of Life; WOS: Web of Science

Acknowledgments

Not applicable.

Authors' contributions

BXT, CA, SN, CB, GHH, TTT, CAL, CSHH, RCMH conceived of the study, and participated in its design and implementation and wrote the manuscript. BXT, GHH, TTT analyzed the data. BXT, GHH, SN, CB, CAL, CSHH, RCMH helped to draft the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Funding

No funding was received for this study.

Availability of data and materials

The datasets used and analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on a reasonable request.

Ethics approval and consent to participate

Not applicable.

Consent for publication

Not applicable.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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Received: 3 August 2019 Accepted: 22 July 2020 Published online: 29 July 2020

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