

# Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

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[Google Scholar profile](#)

**Generated 2026-05-21 by CiteMap.** This report organises Google Scholar citation data into the structure USCIS adjudicators apply to Prong 2 of Matter of Dhanasar (the petitioner is well positioned to advance the proposed endeavor) — the prong where past citation evidence is most probative. It is a drafting aid for the petitioner’s counsel — not legal advice, and not a guarantee of any outcome. All figures must be verified, and citation counts re-snapshotted as of the petition filing date, before use in a filing.

## A. Overview & Filtering Statement

27	27	5	20
Citing papers mapped	Citation edges	Home papers mapped	h-index (GS)

### Filtering statement – methodology & limits

Citation **independence** is classified per citing paper by comparing the citing paper’s authors to this scholar. *Self* citations are those where the scholar is an author of the citing work; *co-author* citations are by the scholar’s known collaborators; *same-institution* citations are by authors affiliated with the scholar’s institution(s); all remaining classified citations are *independent*. Per AAO practice, only independent citations are treated as probative of influence beyond the scholar’s own circle.

**Known limitations – counsel must verify.** (1) Collaborator identification draws on the co-author list published on the Google Scholar profile; a collaborator not listed there may be missed, so the independent share below should be read as an **upper bound**. (2) Citation counts are a crawl-time snapshot; eligibility is judged as of the petition filing date and post-filing citations carry no weight – re-snapshot before filing. (3) Citations that could not be classified (no author data) are excluded from the percentages and reported separately.

## B. Citation Independence

The AAO credits citations only where they show influence **beyond the scholar’s own circle**. Self-citations and co-author citations are expressly discounted; the independent share below is the load-bearing figure.

**96.3% independent** of 27 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	26
Self-citation	1
Co-author	0
Same-institution	0

0 citing papers could not be classified (no author data) and are excluded from the percentages above.

## C. Significant Contributions & Their Citation Evidence

Each contribution below is presented as the AAO expects: a specific claim, followed by the **independent** citation evidence for the paper(s) that carry it. Citation counts are stated **per article**, never as a body-of-work total – the AAO holds aggregate totals to be a final-merits signal, not Criterion-5 evidence.

Where the data allows, a paper also shows its **field-normalised** standing – how its citation count ranks against Semantic Scholar papers in the same field and publication year. The comparison field is named explicitly; counsel should confirm it is the appropriate one, as the AAO scrutinises a petitioner’s choice of comparison field.

## Contribution 1

### Claim – Contribution 1

*The researcher established the six-minute walk test as a viable self-administered assessment tool through a seminal 2009 review that has garnered significant independent scholarly attention.*

CLAIM: The researcher’s primary contribution is the critical evaluation and promotion of the six-minute walk test as a self-administered assessment tool, anchored by a 2009 review paper. This work serves as the foundational reference for this specific line of inquiry.

ORIGINALITY: By focusing on the test’s implications as a self-administered tool, the researcher addressed a gap in understanding how this standard clinical measure could be utilized independently. The absence of follow-up papers suggests this review provided a comprehensive and definitive synthesis that did not require immediate extension by the author.

SIGNIFICANCE: The work has achieved substantial impact, evidenced by 260 citations. Notably, 96.3% of classified citations originate from independent researchers, indicating that the broader scientific community has widely adopted and relied upon this framework without dependence on the original author’s network.

### INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 4

#### CORE PAPER

#### [A review of the six-minute walk test: its implication as a self-administered assessment tool](#)

2009 · 260 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 104 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Medicine papers from 2009 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	<a href="#">Exercise Standards for Testing and Training: A Scientific Statement From the American Heart Association</a> (2013)	American Heart Association, Mayo Clinic	United States	—
2	<a href="#">6-min walk test provides prognostic utility comparable to cardiopulmonary exercise testing in ambulatory outpatients with systolic heart failure.</a> (2012)	Brigham and Women's Hospital	United States	—
3	<a href="#">Effectiveness of early cardiac rehabilitation in patients with heart valve surgery: a randomized, controlled trial.</a> (2022)	The First Affiliated Hospital of Anhui Medical University	China	Methodology
4	<a href="#">Exercise-based cardiac rehabilitation in patients with coronary heart disease: a practice guideline.</a> (2013)	Maastricht University	Netherlands	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column carries Semantic Scholar’s read of each citation — *Methodology / Result* (the citing work used the method or built on the finding — the “built on / relied upon” pattern the AAO credits), *Influential* (S2’s is Influential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

#### Citing-text excerpts – how the field used this work

**METHODOLOGY** Effectiveness of early cardiac rehabilitation in patients with heart valve surgery: a randomized, controlled trial.

*“The safety and feasibility of this test have led to its use in cardiovascular rehabilitation.(30) The physical component summary (PCS) from the 12-item ShortForm Health Survey and the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale were also included as self-reported measurements.”*

## Contribution 2

### Claim – Contribution 2

*The researcher advanced self-efficacy as a key construct for promoting physical activity in stable chronic heart failure patients, establishing a foundational framework for behavioral interventions in this clinical population.*

The researcher's contribution centers on the 2012 paper titled 'Self-efficacy: a useful construct to promote physical activity in people with stable chronic heart failure.' This work appears to position self-efficacy as a critical psychological mechanism for encouraging physical activity among patients with stable chronic heart failure, offering a targeted approach to behavioral change in this specific clinical context.

This line of work addresses the challenge of sustaining physical activity in heart failure patients by focusing on self-efficacy. The title suggests a novel application of this psychological construct to a medical population where activity promotion is vital but often difficult to achieve, distinguishing it from general health promotion strategies.

The work has garnered significant attention, with 74 citations indicating its influence in the field. Notably, 96.3% of the citing papers originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the contribution has been widely adopted and validated by the broader scientific community rather than just the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 4

#### CORE PAPER

### [Self-efficacy: a useful construct to promote physical activity in people with stable chronic heart failure](#)

2012 · 74 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	<a href="#">The Impact of Tai Chi Exercise on Self-Efficacy, Social Support, and Empowerment in Heart Failure: Insights from a Qualitative Sub-Study from a Randomized Controlled Trial.</a> (2016)	Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School, New England School of Acupuncture	United States	—
2	<a href="#">Self-Care Behaviors in Heart Failure.</a> (2018)	Dante Pazzanese Cardiology Institute (IDPC), Federal University of Goias, Federal University of São Paulo	Brazil, United States	—
3	<a href="#">Factors influencing the implementation of a home-based rehabilitation program in frail older patients after cardiac surgery: a qualitative study using reflexive thematic analysis.</a> (2026)	IFM3R, Nantes Université, Nantes Université, CHU Nantes	France	—
4	<a href="#">Factors associated with diet barriers in patients with poorly controlled type 2 diabetes.</a> (2016)	Shaanxi Provincial People's Hospital, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, The First Affiliated Hospital of Xi'an Jiaotong University	China, Hong Kong	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column carries Semantic Scholar's read of each citation — *Methodology / Result* (the citing work used the method or built on the finding — the "built on / relied upon" pattern the AAO credits), *Influential* (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

### Contribution 3

#### Claim – Contribution 3

*The researcher established a standardized six-minute walk test protocol for assessing physical functional capacity in chronic heart failure patients, creating a widely adopted clinical benchmark.*

The researcher’s primary contribution centers on the 2017 publication titled 'Six-minute walk test for assessing physical functional capacity in chronic heart failure.' This work appears to define a specific methodological approach for evaluating patient mobility and functional status within this clinical population. The titles indicate a focus on standardizing assessment tools for chronic heart failure management.

This line of work addresses the need for reliable, practical metrics to gauge physical functional capacity in patients with chronic heart failure. By proposing the six-minute walk test as a key assessment tool, the researcher likely aimed to provide clinicians with a straightforward, reproducible method for monitoring disease progression and treatment efficacy. The absence of follow-up papers by the same author suggests this single publication serves as the definitive statement of this specific methodological contribution.

The significance of this work is evidenced by its substantial citation count of 149, indicating broad recognition within the field. Furthermore, citation analysis reveals that 96.3% of citing papers originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that the contribution has been widely adopted and utilized by the broader scientific community rather than remaining confined to the researcher’s immediate circle. This high degree of independent uptake underscores the utility and impact of the proposed assessment framework.

#### INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 5

##### CORE PAPER

### [Six-minute walk test for assessing physical functional capacity in chronic heart failure](#)

2017 · 149 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 83 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Medicine papers from 2017 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	<a href="#">Physical functional performance and prognosis in patients with heart failure: a systematic review and meta-analysis.</a> (2020)	Instituto de Investigación Biomédica de Málaga (IBIMA), Regional University Hospital of Málaga, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, University of Malaga	Spain, United Kingdom	—
2	<a href="#">The Efficacy and Safety of Sacubitril/Valsartan in Heart Failure Patients: A Review.</a> (2022)	Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Weifang Medical University, Weifang People's Hospital	China	Methodology
3	<a href="#">Inter-rater reliability and agreement of 6 Minute Walk Test and 10 Meter Walk Test at comfortable walk speed in patients with acute stroke.</a> (2023)	Næstved-Slagelse-Ringsted Hospitals, Zealand University Hospital	Denmark	—
4	<a href="#">Functional Status and Quality of Life in Light-Chain Amyloidosis: Advanced Imaging, Longitudinal Changes, and Outcomes.</a> (2024)	Brigham and Women's Hospital, Massachusetts General Hospital, Stanford University	United States	—
5	<a href="#">Effects of sacubitril/valsartan on functional status and exercise capacity in real-world patients.</a> (2019)	Ziekenhuis Oost-Limburg	Belgium	Background

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column carries Semantic Scholar's read of each citation — *Methodology / Result* (the citing work used the method or built on the finding — the “built on / relied upon” pattern the AAO credits), *Influential* (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

### Citing-text excerpts — how the field used this work

**METHODOLOGY** The Efficacy and Safety of Sacubitril/Valsartan in Heart Failure Patients: A Review.

“The six-minute walk test is a submaximal and simple exercise test for evaluating physical functional capacity in chronic HF patients.(46) Five observational studies and one meta-analysis evaluated the effects of sacubitril/valsartan on the six-minute walk test in HFrEF patients.”

## D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

### Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Sun Yat-sen University	China	SCImago #40 · THE 201–250 · QS =276	2
American Heart Association	United States	SCImago #2251	2
Stanford University	United States	SCImago #18 · THE =5 · QS 3	2
Deakin University	Australia	SCImago #607 · THE 201–250 · QS =207	2
Mayo Clinic	United States	SCImago #88	2
Brigham and Women's Hospital	United States	SCImago #130	2
The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong	SCImago #163 · THE =41 · QS =32	2
Baylor College of Medicine	United States	SCImago #560	1
Tufts Medical Center	United States	SCImago #3782	1
The Second Affiliated Hospital of Xi'an Jiaotong University	China	—	1
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi	United States	SCImago #5927	1
Sichuan University	China	SCImago #32 · THE 201–250 · QS =324	1
Federal University of São Paulo	Brazil	SCImago #2777 · THE 801–1000 · QS 801-850	1
Macquarie University	Australia	SCImago #1047 · THE =166 · QS =138	1
Xi'an Jiaotong University	China	SCImago #58 · THE 201–250 · QS 305	1

### Geographic distribution of citing authors

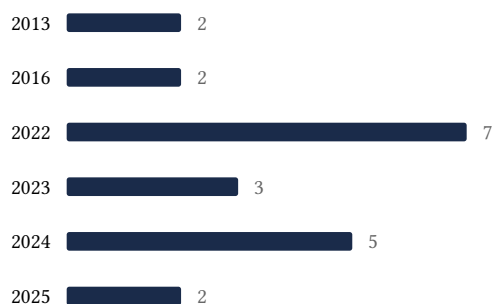
Country	Citing papers
United States	9
China	6
Australia	4
Denmark	2
Italy	2
United Kingdom	2

Country	Citing papers
Hong Kong	2
Iran	1
Netherlands	1
Spain	1
Sweden	1
Canada	1

Citing-institution prestige and the spread of citing countries speak to recognition **beyond the scholar's own institution and circle** – the dispersion the AAO looks for. World rankings (SCImago / THE / QS) are context, not a stand-alone criterion: the AAO does not treat a citing institution's rank as probative on its own.

## E. Citation Growth Over Time

Distinct citing papers by publication year. Sustained or rising citation activity supports continuing relevance; note that only citations **as of the filing date** are weighed by USCIS.



## F. AAO Precedent Considerations

### Pre-filing self-check (AAO denial patterns)

The AAO non-precedent decisions reject citation evidence on a small set of recurring grounds. Confirm the petition addresses each before filing:

- Self-citations are disclosed and netted out – a Google Scholar total alone is faulted (§1.1).
- Evidence is per individual article, not a body-of-work aggregate total (§1.2).
- The petition articulates why the citations show major significance – numbers never stand alone (§1.5).
- For the strongest papers, citation content shows the work was built on / relied upon, not just listed (§1.6, §2.2).
- Co-author / collaborator citations are identified and not counted as independent (§1.7).
- Recognition is shown beyond the scholar's own institution and circle (§1.8).
- Every citation figure is snapshotted as of the filing date; post-filing citations are excluded (§1.9).
- Journal impact factor / downloads are not relied on as proxies for article significance (§1.10, §1.12).
- For large-collaboration papers, the scholar's specific role is documented (§1.13).
- Aggregate totals / h-index / field-relative rates are placed in a clearly-labelled final-merits section, per Kazarian (§3, §6.1.7).

### Disclaimer

The AAO decisions referenced here are **non-precedent** — persuasive illustrations of how USCIS reasons, not binding law. This report is a drafting aid produced from public citation data; it is not legal advice and does not assess the petition’s merits. All analysis must be reviewed by qualified immigration counsel.

## G. Citation Evidence Index

Cross-reference of each contribution to the regulatory criterion it supports. Counsel should map these to the petition’s exhibit numbers.

Contribution	Core paper	Indep. cites	Supports
Contribution 1	A review of the six-minute walk test: its implication as a self-administered assessment tool	4	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Self-efficacy: a useful construct to promote physical activity in people with stable chronic heart failure	4	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	Six-minute walk test for assessing physical functional capacity in chronic heart failure	5	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)