

9.13 An Evaluation of the Content, Readability, and Reliability of publicly available web-based information on pneumothorax surgery in Ireland.

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Background: The internet is often a first port-of-call for patients exploring treatment options. No study has evaluated online information quality regarding pneumothorax surgery. Knowledge regarding same may allow physicians to guide patients to appropriate websites. We aim to evaluate the content, readability, and reliability of online information regarding pneumothorax surgery.

Methods: 11 search terms related to pneumothorax surgery were entered into Google, Bing, and Yahoo. The first twenty websites from each search were identified. The Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA) and DISCERN criteria were applied to evaluate website reliability. To evaluate readability, 10 standardised tools were utilised. To evaluate content, a novel 10-part questionnaire was designed.

Results: N=79 websites were analysed. The mean JAMA score was 1.82+/-1.22 out of 4. The mean readability score was 15.43+/-9.76. Only four websites were written at a 6th-grade reading level. 43% of websites did not mention side effects of pneumothorax surgery. 48.1% did not mention alternative treatment options.

Conclusions: Most websites were written above the 6th-grade reading level recommended by the US Department of Health and Human Services. Many excluded essential information regarding pneumothorax surgery. This emphasises the need for comprehensive, reliable websites on pneumothorax surgery.

Keywords: pneumothorax, readability, reliability, web-based information.

Disclosures:

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