

# AB083. SOH22ABS016. Readability and quality of online information for patients pertaining to revision knee arthroplasty: an objective analysis

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**Background:** Modern patients use the internet more frequently for their health information. Our aim was to assess the quality and readability of online patient education materials relating to revision knee arthroplasty. We hypothesised that this information would be too difficult to read for the average patient and of a lesser quality than desired.

**Methods:** A search of the top 50 results on 3 search engines (Google, Bing, Yahoo) was completed (MeSH “revision knee arthroplasty”, “revision knee replacement”). Readability of these websites was calculated using a specialised website, [www.readable.com](http://www.readable.com) to produce 3 scores [Gunning-Fog (GF), Flesch Reading Ease (FRE), Flesch-Kincaid Grade (FKG)]. Quality was assessed using the Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA) benchmark criteria and the Health On the Net (HON) code toolbar extension.

**Results:** There were 89 unique websites identified. Mean FRE was 44.01±11.05. The mean GF was 12.01±2.94. The mean FKG level was 10.06±1.95. As per the FRE score, no webpage was pitched at or below a sixth grade reading level. The GF index identified only 3 websites (3.4%) at 6th grade reading level. As per FKG score, most webpages (n=58, 65.2%) found themselves in the 10th grade reading level

and above. Four websites (4.5%) displayed a HONcode certificate. However, all had expired. Most websites (n=34, 38.2%) didn't meet any of the JAMA criteria.

**Conclusions:** The reading level of these materials is too high for the average patient and of a low quality. Given what we know about levels of health literacy and their relationship with patient outcomes, it is vital that we address these deficiencies promptly.

**Keywords:** Health literacy; orthopaedic surgery; patient education; reading level; revision knee arthroplasty

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## Footnote

*Conflicts of Interest:* The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

*Ethical Statement:* The authors are accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

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