

# A Comparative Readability Analysis of Online Patient Information Regarding Breast Reconstruction Following Mastectomy

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*Nothing to disclose*

# Objective

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The internet is widely-used by patients to seek surgical information. It may influence societal expectations of surgical interventions<sup>1</sup>

High quality resources should not exceed a 7<sup>th</sup> grade reading level

# Objective

**Our aim:** To undertake a comparative readability assessment of online patient information regarding breast reconstruction following mastectomy

# Materials and Methods

- January 2016: **7 websites** were **selected.**



MAYO  
CLINIC



Canadian  
Cancer  
Society



CANCER  
RESEARCH  
UK



National Institutes of Health

Breast  
Cancer  
Network  
Australia



## Materials and Methods (Tests)

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- Automated Readability Index,  
Coleman-Liau Index, SMOG Index,  
Gunning-Fog score, Flesch-Kincaid  
Grade level and Flesch-Kincaid  
Reading Ease using the Readability  
Studio program

## Results

- Ideal reading level: **7<sup>th</sup> grade**
- Mean reading level: **12<sup>th</sup> grade**
- Flesch-Kincaid Score: >16 years old

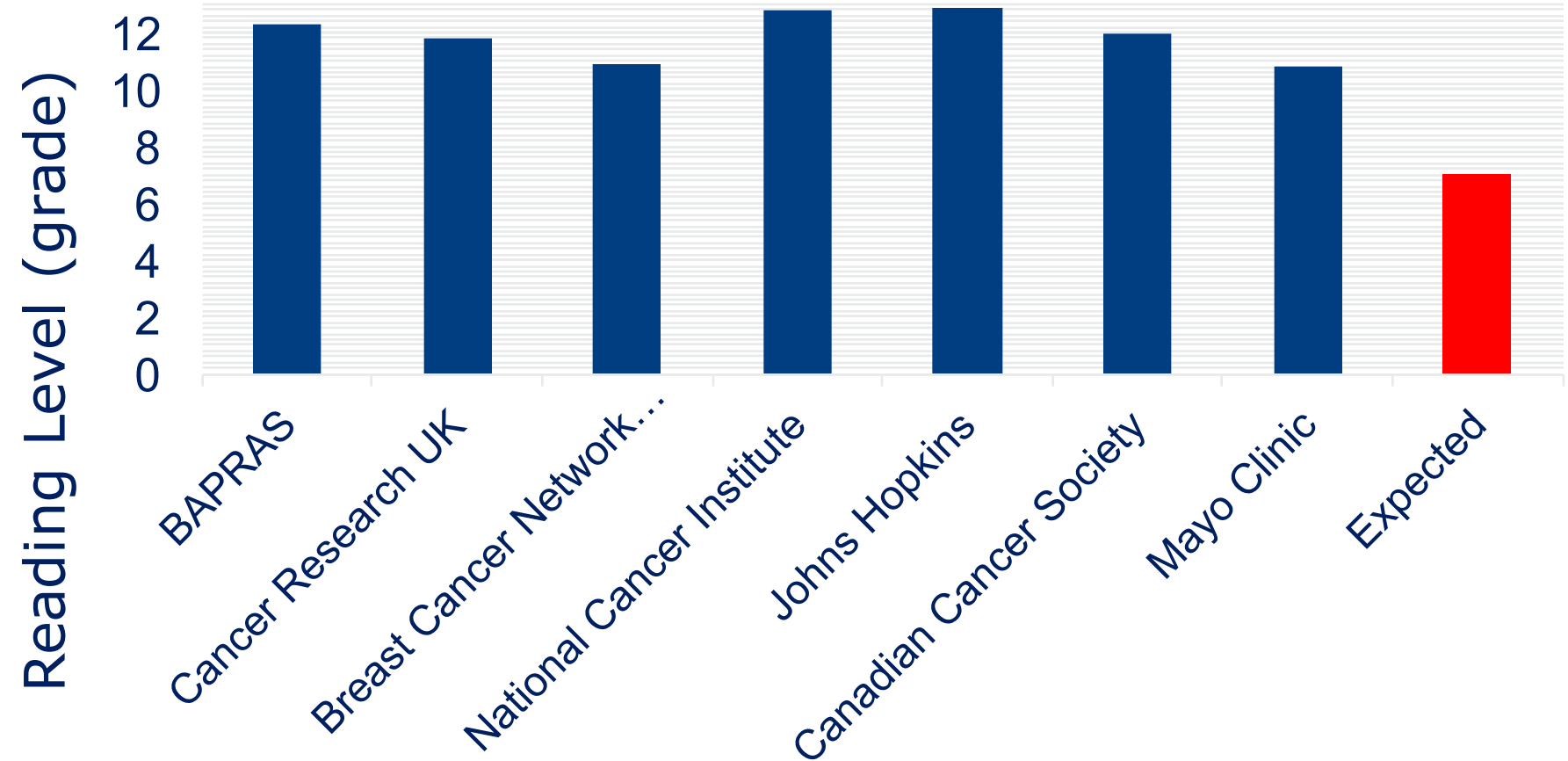
**Highest reading level: >12<sup>th</sup> grade**

(John Hopkins)

**Lowest reading level: 11<sup>th</sup> grade**

(Mayo Clinic)

# Results



## Conclusion

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- Mean reading levels were considerably higher than recommended
- Simpler, clearer materials more suited to general US public and internationally