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

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Nothing to disclose
Objective

The internet is widely-used by patients to seek surgical information. It may influence societal expectations of surgical interventions\(^1\)

High quality resources should not exceed a 7\(^{th}\) 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.
Materials and Methods (Tests)

- 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: 7th grade
- Mean reading level: 12th grade
- Flesch-Kincaid Score: >16 years old

Highest reading level: >12th grade
   (John Hopkins)

Lowest reading level: 11th grade
   (Mayo Clinic)
Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reading Level (grade)</th>
<th>BAPRAS</th>
<th>Cancer Research UK</th>
<th>National Cancer Network</th>
<th>Johns Hopkins</th>
<th>Canadian Cancer Society</th>
<th>Mayo Clinic</th>
<th>Expected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusion

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