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Quality and Reliability of YouTube videos in Arabic as a Source of Patient Information on Prostate Cancer.

Background:

Prostate cancer remains a major public health challenge in the Arab world with few population-based screening programs, a high incidence of advanced disease at diagnosis, and limited patient access to sub-specialist care. A large number of patients diagnosed with prostate cancer use the (World Wide Web) internet to learn more about the disease and treatment options; however, material in the Arabic language is scarce. This study aims to objectively assess the quality and reliability of the information on YouTube™, which is the most globally used video platform, pertaining to prostate cancer videos published in Arabic.

Methods:

A total of 100 videos were identified by searching specific keywords in Arabic (Prostate Cancer, Prostate cancer treatment, prostate). Retrieved videos were analyzed & categorized into 4 groups according to content as useful, misleading, personal experience, or irrelevant. Useful videos were assessed using the Global Quality Scale (GQS) as a validated measure of quality, which is graded on a 5-point Likert scale, with 1 representing poor quality & 5 representing excellent quality. The modified DISCERN tool was used as a measure of reliability. The tool has a potential total score of 5 points, with higher scores indicating higher reliability.

Results:

Most of the speakers in these videos identified themselves as health workers (77%). Only 8 % of the videos sources were hospital or medical organizations. Of the 100 retrieved videos, 86% were found to have useful content, while 14% were found to be misleading or irrelevant. The median GQS score of the useful videos was 4 (IQR: 4-5), while the median modified DISCERN tool was 4 (IQR: 3-4).

Conclusion:

To our knowledge, this is the first in-depth study to objectively assess the quality and reliability of information pertaining to prostate cancer in Arabic language on YouTube™. More efforts are needed to improve the quality of prostate cancer educational materials and videos in Arabic Language on YouTube™. Patient focus groups are planned as the next step to address the information gap for patients with prostate cancer in the Arabic language.