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## Cleft Care Readability: Can Patients Access Helpful Online Resources?

Objective:
The present study identifies and analyzes online patient resources for cleft lip with or without cleft palate to survey the online educational landscape relative to the recommended difficulty set by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and American Medical Association (AMA).
Methods:
An internet search of "cleft palate," "cleft lip," and 12 similar inputs were entered into a search engine. The first 50 links for each search term were identified, collected, and reviewed individually for relevance and accessibility. The content of the websites was analyzed with Readability Studio Version 2019.1. The following readability metrics were utilized in this study: (1) Coleman-Liau (grade levels), (2) New Dale-Chall, (3) Flesch-Kincaid, (4) Flesch Reading Ease, (5) FORCAST, (6) Fry, (7) Gunning Fog, (8) New Fog Count, (9) Raygor Readability Estimate, and (10) Simple Measure of Gobbledygook.
Results:
In no combination of search terms did any collection of links provide information within the mid-seventh grade levels recommended by the NIH. The analysis of 143 unique websites in the "Cleft Palate" group showed a readability level appropriate to high school students. The analysis of 144 unique websites in the "Cleft Lip" group showed a readability level appropriate for eighth grade students with 6 months of class complete.
Conclusions:
The information presented to patients on cleft care is too complex and well above the recommended 7th-grade reading level target set forth by the NIH and AMA, which hinders functional health literacy.

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