

Evaluation of Online English Materials for Vaginoplasty



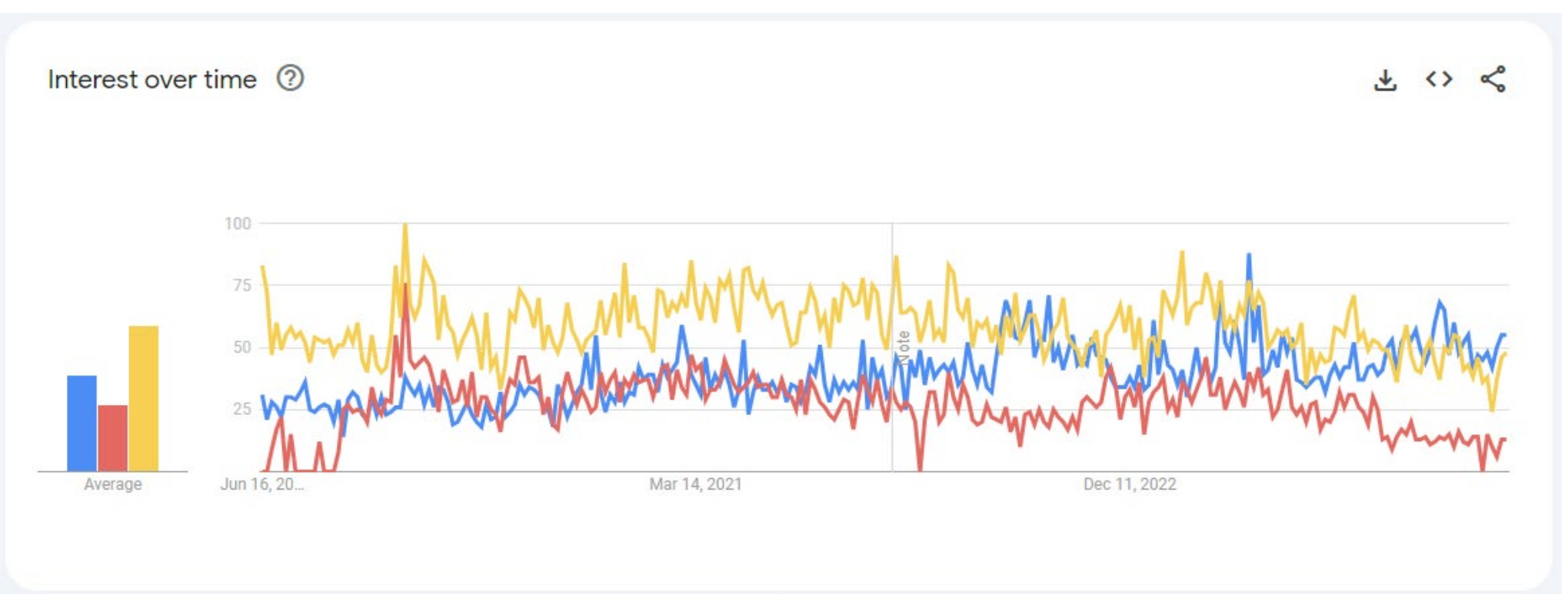
Pardo-Palau, JA. Arnold, S. Perez, I. Jacobs, K, Schechter, L
Rush University – Plastic Surgery

Background

- Rise in demand for gender-affirming surgery, particularly vaginoplasties highlights the need to prioritize their well being and understanding to enable an informed decision
- Up to 85% of patients consult the internet as their main source of information prior to seeking their first professional opinion
- Health literacy has been associated to better patient-centered outcomes
- We aimed to enhanced transgender healthcare by assessing online resources' readability, cultural sensitivity, and usefulness for this population and the broader medical community

Methodology

- Google web search using terms “Vaginoplasty”, “Gender affirming surgery”, and “Male to female surgery”
- We utilized Google trends tool to select the most popular term used in the Google search engine in the past 5 years.
- Top 10 results from institutional/organizational websites were selected for review
- We used validated tools to assess for:
 - Mean reading level (SMOG)
 - Cultural sensitivity (CSAT)
 - Understandability (PMAT)
 - Actionability (PMAT)

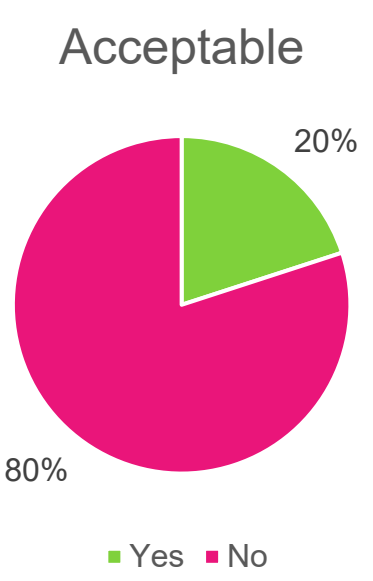


- Readability: 0% passed

Table 1. Reading analysis		
Website	SMOG	Word Complexity
1. University of Michigan	20.7	29.6%
2. Hopkins	25.7	17.8%
3. Mount Sinai	38.6	20.1%
4. UVA Health	42.5	21.9%
5. Cleveland Clinic	50	14.8%
6. University Hospitals	40.1	16.7%
7. UCSF	36.4	16.9%
8. UCLA	24	16.6%
9. Mayo Clinic	42.5	22.0%
10. ASPS	41.8	17.9%
MEAN	36.23	18.5%

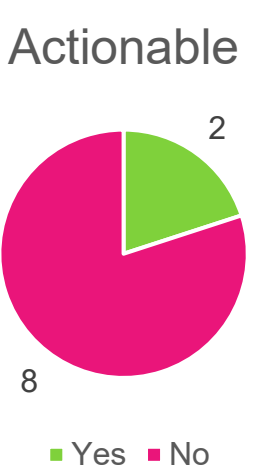
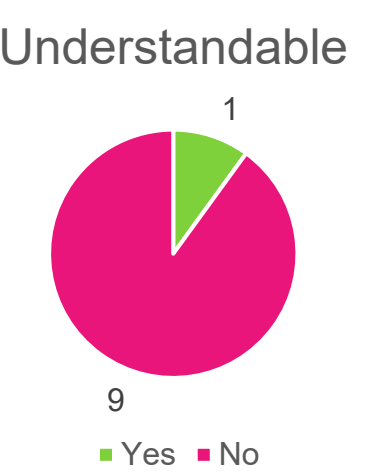
- Cultural Sensitivity

Table 2. CSAT		
Website	Score	Acceptable
1. University of Michigan	2.5	Yes
2. Hopkins	2.1	No
3. Mount Sinai	2.3	No
4. UVA Health	1.9	No
5. Cleveland Clinic	2.3	No
6. University Hospitals	2.3	No
7. UCSF	2.0	No
8. UCLA	2.3	No
9. Mayo Clinic	3.7	Yes
10. ASPS	2.4	No
MEAN	2.38	No



- Understandability and Actionability

Table 3. PEMAT		
Website	Understand* (%)	Action* (%)
1. University of Michigan	70	60
2. Hopkins	50	0
3. Mount Sinai	56	80
4. UVA Health	27	0
5. Cleveland Clinic	43	0
6. University Hospitals	69	20
7. UCSF	50	60
8. UCLA	64	40
9. Mayo Clinic	100	60
10. ASPS	64	80.0%
MEAN	59.3	40.0%
*Understandability		
*Actionability		



Results

- Mean reading level was 36.23 (exceeding the recommended level of readability established by AMA and NIH).
- Mean cultural sensitivity score was 2,4 (below the minimum acceptable benchmark of 2.5)
 - Only 2 out of 10 webpages had an acceptable score
- Mean understandability was moderate (59.3%)
 - Acceptable threshold was 70%, only 1 out of 10 webpages had a satisfactory score for understandability
- Mean actionability of 37% (Low)
 - Only 1 out of 10 webpages was able to have >70% score on actionability
- None of the webpages evaluated had a satisfactory actionability AND understandability threshold.

Conclusion

- Existing online resources regarding vaginoplasty fail to adhere to established guidelines regarding reading level
- Organizations and institutions aiming to provide patients with useful information should tailor their materials more towards their target audience. In addition to decreasing medical jargon and providing information at an appropriate reading level, providers should incorporate cultural elements appropriately into their websites to increase patient acceptance
- Suitable readability, understandability, actionability, and cultural sensitivity in health materials contribute to patient awareness and empowerment when considering vaginoplasty.

Bibliography

- Chaya BF, Berman ZP, Boczar D, Trilles J, Siringo NV, Diep GK, Rodriguez Colon R, Rodriguez ED. Gender Affirmation Surgery on the Rise: Analysis of Trends and Outcomes. LGBT Health. 2022 Nov;9(8):582-588. doi: 10.1089/lgbt.2021.0224. Epub 2022 Oct 14. PMID: 36251926.