



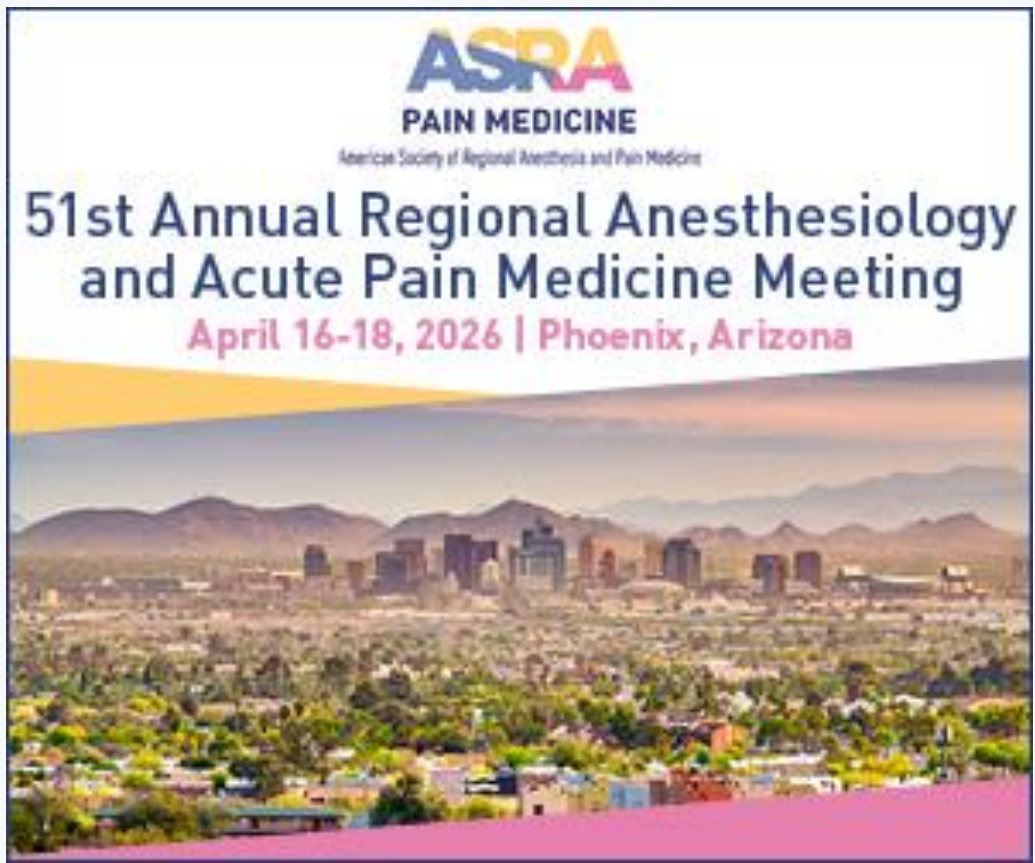
Online Questions and Information Quality Surrounding the Novel Non-Opioid Analgesic Suzetrigine: Analysis of Publicly Available Web Content

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INTRODUCTION

- Suzetrigine, a novel non-opioid analgesic targeting NaV1.8 sodium channels, has generated **public interest** as a **safe, non-addictive option** for managing acute pain.¹
- People frequently seek medication information **online**, with many patients reporting they have used online resources as a **first stop** for queries.²
- Quality and reliability** of web-based content surrounding emerging analgesics are poorly characterized.
- This study aimed to evaluate the content and quality of online information related to suzetrigine using validated assessment tools.

METHODS

- Using a web scraping tool, we searched 3 terms (“suzetrigine”, “Journaux”, “vx-548”) for 300 question+website combinations per term from the “People Also Ask” section on Google Chrome. A total of **900 question+websites were identified**.
- After excluding questions unrelated to “suzetrigine”, “Journaux”, or “vx-548”, and 1 website link that did not open, **712 question+websites were included for final analysis**.
- Questions were classified using medication-specific themes and Rothwell’s Classification.
- Websites were categorized by source (academic, commercial, government, medical practice, public).
- Content quality was assessed using JAMA benchmark criteria (authorship, attribution, currency, disclosure) and the BriefDISCERN instrument.
- A **large-language machine learning model** assigned Rothwell’s Classification to questions.
- 2 raters evaluated website quality. Interobserver reliability was assessed using Cohen’s kappa for binary variables, weighted kappa for ordinal scores, and intraclass correlation coefficients (ICC) for continuous measures.

Table 1. List of the Top 10 Questions

Question	Count
How does Journavx make you feel?	24
When will suzetrigine be available?	22
Can you buy Journavx over the counter?	19
Does suzetrigine get you high?	17
Is Journavx available?	16
Are there alternatives to Journavx?	15
Does Journavx actually work?	14
Can you take Journavx with gabapentin?	13
Is suzetrigine addictive?	13
What is the new pain pill to replace opioids?	13

Table 2. Classification of Questions by Rothwell’s Criteria and Medication-Related Themes

	Classification	Number (%)
Rothwell Classification	Fact “Seeks objective, verifiable information, including medication availability, cost, and mechanism of action.” Examples: Can you buy Journavx over the counter? When will suzetrigine be available? Is suzetrigine a narcotic?	599 (84.1%)
	Policy “Asks about protocols related to the medication, indications, or management.” Examples: Can you take Journavx longer than 14 days? Does Journavx work for chronic pain? Who should not take suzetrigine?	77 (10.8%)
	Value “Seeks subjective opinions or judgments about what is best or most important, including appraisals of risk or benefit.” Examples: How does Journavx make you feel? How does Journavx compare to Oxycodone? Is Journavx habit forming?	36 (5.1%)
Question Themes	Definition, how to use, indications Can you take Journavx long term? Can you take 100 mg of Journavx? How long does it take for Journavx to kick in?	270 (37.9%)
	Availability, cost, insurance, FDA approval Is vx-548 available in the US? How to get Journavx cheap? How much will VX-548 cost?	216 (30.3%)
	Potential benefits, pain relief, efficacy Is vx-548 better than opioids? Is suzetrigine effective for chronic pain? Does Journavx work for nerve pain?	95 (13.3%)
	Risks and complications What are the side effects of suzetrigine? Is suzetrigine addictive? Is VX-548 addictive?	91 (12.8%)
	Technical details, medication mechanism and interactions How is vx-548 administered? What drugs interact with Journavx? What drugs cannot be taken with Journavx?	40 (5.6%)

Table 3. Classification of Questions by Rothwell’s Criteria and Medication-Related Themes

Website Theme	Number (%) of Websites
Commercial www.goodrx.com www.journavx.com	468 (52.29%)
Academic www.mayoclinic.org/drugs-supplements/ www.yalemedicine.org/news/new-non-opioid-pain-pill	229 (25.59%)
Government www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-novel-non-opioid-treatment-moderate-severe-acute-pain https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39552600	134 (14.97%)
Public https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suzetrigine www.reddit.com/r/pharmacy/comments/1k6z5na/do_you_guys_dispense_journavx_for_more_than_14 www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/06/02/the-radical-development-of-an-entirely-new-painkiller#	33 (3.69%)
Medical Practice www.mymatrixx.com/news/non-opioid-journavxtm-approved-fda-acute-pain www.osc-ortho.com/blog/what-to-know-about-the-new-experimental-pain-medication-vx-548	31 (3.46%)

References

1. Bertoch T, D’Aunno D, McCoun J, et al. Suzetrigine, a Nonopioid Na V 1.8 Inhibitor for Treatment of Moderate-to-severe Acute Pain: Two Phase 3 Randomized Clinical Trials. Anesthesiology. 2025;142(6):1085-1099. doi:10.1097/ALN.0000000000005460.

2. Alzghaibi H. People behavioral during health information searching in COVID-19 era: a review. Front Public Health. 2023;11:1166639. Published 2023 Aug 10. doi:10.3389/fpubh.2023.1166639.

RESULTS

- ≤30% of questions were answered by Google Chrome’s **AI** function.
- 99 questions **compare suzetrigine to other medications** or ask about the safety of taking suzetrigine with other pain medications, including opioids, Tylenol, ibuprofen.
- Prevalent question themes:
 - Definition/indications and usage** instructions (37.9%)
 - Questions about **availability/cost** (30.5%) (Table 2)
- Commercial websites accounted for most content (52%), then academic (26%) and government (15%) (Table 3).
- Both raters scored modest **JAMA scores** (mean±SD: 2.85±1.39 and 2.79±1.25).
 - Academic sources scored highest JAMA totals.
 - Commercial sources scored lower in attribution and disclosure.
- BriefDISCERN** scores demonstrated similar trends for both raters (17.92±6.85 and 18.92±7.52)
 - Academic websites achieved highest mean scores (23-26)
 - Commercial and government sources scored lower (15-18)
- Interobserver reliability** was substantial to excellent (kappa 0.69-0.94; ICC up to 0.94).

DISCUSSION

- Publicly available online information about suzetrigine is of **variable quality**, with frequent **deficiencies** in source transparency and balanced risk discussion.
- The predominance of fact-based and availability-related questions reflects a need for **clear, practical guidance** during early medication adoption.
- Prominence of commercial websites and growing presence of AI-generated responses highlight the importance of **clinician awareness** of the online information shaping patient expectations and counseling to support informed decision-making for novel pain therapies.