

ASSESSMENT OF YOUTUBE AS A SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR TRIGGER FINGER PROCEDURES

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Introduction:

Recent studies indicate an increased gravitation amongst the general population towards using social media as a source of healthcare information. This especially holds true for YouTube—the most accessed online video platform. Yet, there lacks an investigation into the content of these videos. This study aims to assess the educational quality of videos pertaining to trigger finger release procedures.

Methods:

- YouTube search terms: "Trigger Finger Procedure," "Trigger Finger Release," & "Trigger Finger Surgery."
- A total of 109 videos were assessed, with 33 being excluded based on preset criteria.
- Videos were assessed for educational content using the Global Quality Scale (GQS; 4-5=high quality, 1-3=low quality) by three independent reviewers.
- Video Power Index (VPI) and a ratio of view count per days since upload assessed video popularity
- Source, modality, likes, dislikes, and date of upload were recorded for each video as well.

Results:

- An average GQS of 2.72 was scored amongst selected videos
- Videos uploaded by physicians had a significantly higher GQS than those not uploaded by physicians ($P < 0.001$).
- Comparing educational modalities, physician-led presentations had significantly higher GQS scores compared to those of live surgeries and other patient-friendly modalities such as physical therapy, animations, news reports, patient stories, etc. ($P < 0.001$).
- No significant difference was found when comparing GQS scores by video popularity, as was there no significant correlation between average GQS score and days since upload.

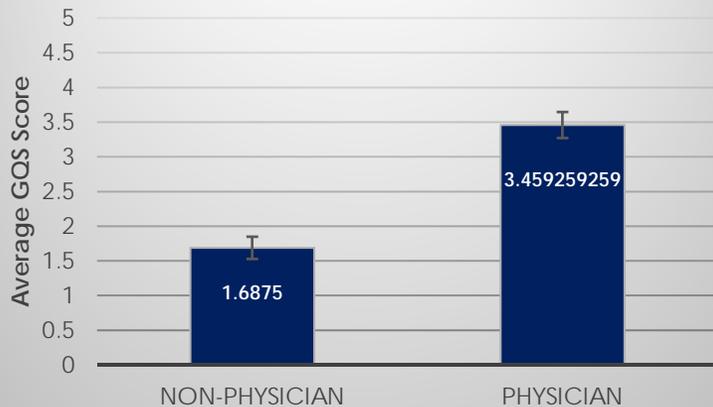
Discussion:

- The average trigger finger procedure YouTube video provides low quality information.
- Videos conducted by physicians significantly higher ratings than videos not involving physicians, indicating physician involvement improves educational content
- In terms of content delivery method, physician-led presentations offered the best educational content for potential patients, while patient-friendly modalities tended to sacrifice educational value for ease of content delivery.

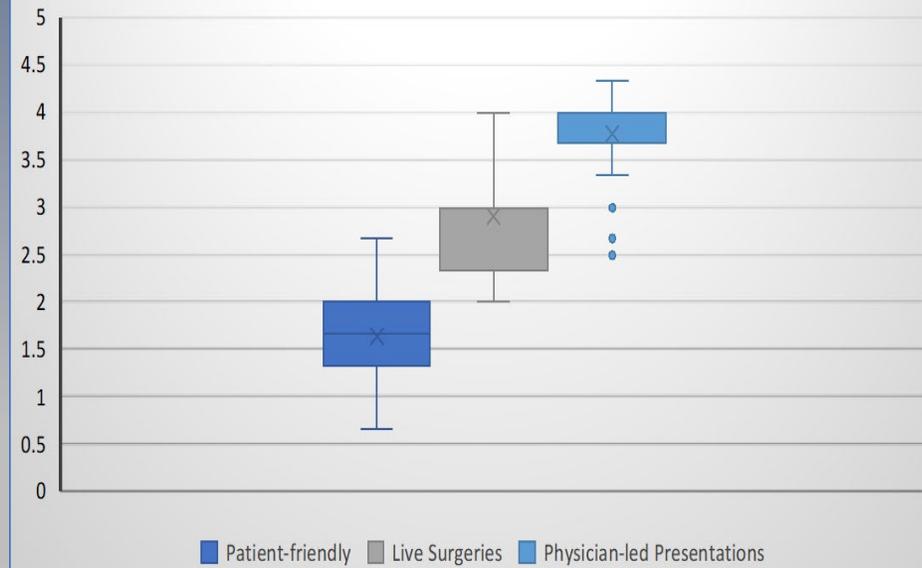
Conclusion:

- Further analysis of trigger finger videos found on YouTube could poise physician involvement in producing videos of high educational quality while also potentially bridging the gap spanning quality content and video popularity.
- With online platforms such as YouTube evolving into conventional sources of healthcare information, physicians must act to improve the quality of online content to better guide patients in navigating treatment options and making healthcare decisions.

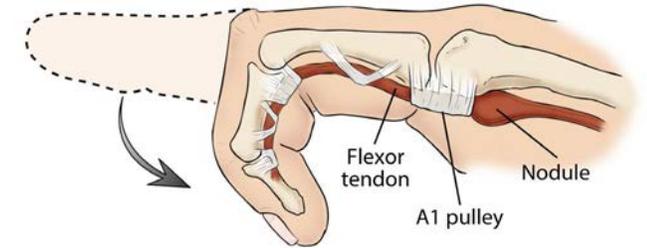
Physician Vs Non-physician Average GQS Score



Average GQS vs Modality



Modality	Count	Average GQS	Variance
Patient Friendly	28	1.63690476	0.18941064
Live Surgeries	19	2.9122807	0.24496426
Physician-led Presentations	27	3.77160494	0.2973251



The thickened nodule on the flexor tendon strikes the A1 pulley, making it difficult to straighten the finger.
Reproduced and adapted from JF Sarwark, ed. *Essentials of Musculoskeletal Care*, ed 4. Rosemont, IL: American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, 2010.

References:

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- Madathil KC, Rivera-Rodriguez AJ, Greenstein JS, Gramopadhye AK. Healthcare information on YouTube: A systematic review. *Health Informatics J*. 2015;21(3):173-194. doi:10.1177/1460458213512220