More Eating Disorder Patients Than Others Double Check Information Given By Their Doctors

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Introduction

Easily accessible information on the Internet gives people the opportunity to double check information given by their doctors.

1. Methods

A questionnaire was distributed to medical students, students of sports, to a randomly sampled group and to patients suffering from eating disorders. Respondents were recruited from Norway and Sweden. They were asked whether or not they had used the Internet to check if their doctors had given them correct information. Responses were analysed with a Chi-square test.

2. Results

Of the 609 (278 students, 78 patients, and 254 randomly sampled people) respondents, 50 students (18.0%), 26 patients (33.8%), and 40 (15.7%) of the randomly sampled people had used the Internet to double check whether their doctors had given them correct information. The difference was statistically significant (Pearson Chi-square=12.815, d.f.=2, p=0.002).

3. Discussion

Significantly more of the patients suffering from eating disorders than the others double-checked the information given by their doctors. We do not know why the patients were more active in checking information, but the finding could be related to how trustful the eating disorder patients were compared to the other respondents.

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