

Literacy level an issue in laryngectomy-related patient ed

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(HealthDay)—Current laryngectomy-related patient education materials

are too difficult for an average American adult to understand, according to a study published online Aug. 16 in *Head & Neck*.

Kevin Wong, from the Boston University Medical Center, and colleagues evaluated laryngectomy-related educational [materials](#) from an online search using the validated Patient Education Materials Assessment Tool. The authors also calculated reading difficulty, and assessed the correlation between readability, understandability, and actionability.

Forty-four articles were included in the assessment. The researchers observed considerable inter-rater agreement ($\kappa = 0.71$). The mean understandability and actionability were 68.3 ± 17 percent and 66.3 ± 24 percent. Reading difficulty exceeded the ability of an average U.S. adult. Readability was negatively correlated with understandability ($R = -0.49$; P

"Current laryngectomy-related patient education materials are highly variable in understandability and actionability. Reading difficulty across all formulas also exceeded the eighth-grade reading level of an average American adult," the authors write. "Future revisions of laryngectomy-related educational materials may be warranted in order for current materials to benefit a wider readership."

More information: [Abstract](#)
[Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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