The Information-Seeking Behaviors of Pediatricians regarding Treatment Benefits and Harms at Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN).

Nicholas Werbeckes

Robert D. Barraco MD, MPH
Lehigh Valley Health Network, robert_d.barraco@lvhn.org

Maria Karagias

Monica Stewart

Samuel Reynolds

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarlyworks.lvhn.org/select-program

Part of the Medical Education Commons

Published In/Presented At

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by LVHN Scholarly Works. It has been accepted for inclusion in LVHN Scholarly Works by an authorized administrator. For more information, please contact LibraryServices@lvhn.org.
**Introduction**

Parents are presenting to pediatric clinics with information about their child’s health with increasing frequency. Pediatricians regularly face the challenge of finding, evaluating, and discussing an ever-evolving body of medical information with patients. It is not comprehensively known how pediatricians at LVHN obtain clinically relevant information necessary to address the needs of patients and parents. This study was designed to investigate how pediatricians at the Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) seek information directly related to patient care and the factors influencing these behaviors (e.g., attitudes, barriers, perceptions).

**Problem Statement**

How do pediatricians at LVHN seek information directly related to patient care and what factors influence these behaviors?

**Methodology**

The Information-Seeking Behaviors of Pediatricians regarding Treatment Benefits and Harms at Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN).

**Results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results Table</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pedagogically</td>
<td>Study 108.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Specialty</td>
<td>Pediatrics 108.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Specialty</td>
<td>Pediatrics 108.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Specialty</td>
<td>Pediatrics 108.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusions & Implications**

On the Information-Seeking Behaviors of Pediatricians & the Influencing Factors

Pediatricians favored mobile-interfacing information sources with diagnostic-centric page organization (e.g. UpToDate, DynaMed). The following were the most frequently reported factors influencing information-seeking behaviors of pediatricians:

- **Familiarity**
  - Pediatricians seek the most frequently cited reason for using one perceived reliable resource over another is familiarity (e.g., UpToDate or DynaMed). High levels of familiarity with a resource lead to increased efficiency by reducing variability; however, familiarity limits the ability to exhaustively explore other resources.
  - Familiarity and perceived reliability may benefit the clinical use of technology and in addressing the limitations of technology.

- **Limited Available Time**
  - As the "time-saving" resources available time is reported to impact many aspects of the information-seeking process.
  - Time was reported as leading primary influence when comparing the impact of the same resource (e.g., UpToDate) in different settings.

- **Other Influencing Factors**
  - The study also uncovered other factors influencing the information-seeking behaviors of pediatricians, such as:
    1. **Personality and preferences**
    2. **Institutional and environmental factors**
    3. **Cost and accessibility**
    4. **Patient and family preferences**

**Future Investigations**

- **Familiarity**
  - Lack of familiarity with an information source may also lead to a decrease in the use of that resource.
  - Future research should focus on understanding the role of familiarity in the information-seeking process.

- **Limited Available Time**
  - Future research should explore how limited available time impacts the information-seeking behaviors of pediatricians.

- **Other Influencing Factors**
  - Future research should investigate how other influencing factors impact the information-seeking behaviors of pediatricians.

**References**


