

Educational Utility of Social Media for Laparoscopic Surgery in India: A Cross-Sectional Survey of Popular Indian Communities on Facebook [Response to Letter]

Deepa Rajan¹
Vinod G Pillai²
Patsy Varghese¹

¹Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Believers Church Medical College Hospital, Thiruvalla, Kerala, India;
²Department of Surgery, Believers Church Medical College Hospital, Thiruvalla, Kerala, India

Dear editor

The authors appreciate the interest shown by Denise Tan in our recent research article on the educational utility of social media for laparoscopic surgery.¹ The correspondent has correctly pointed out the importance of newer learning approaches for postgraduate training in surgical specialties. Our article is the first one, to the best of our knowledge, to explore the learning potential of Facebook groups for laparoscopic surgery in India. Consequently, we were aware of all the potential limitations of our study which have been mentioned in the correspondent's letter. We have already mentioned all these issues, as well as the potential disadvantages of social media for educational purposes, in the last two paragraphs of the Discussion section of our article.

The correspondent has proposed that the mental health of social media users and their increasing familiarity with online learning modes may be possible confounding factors. We employed a cross-sectional, non-interventional, non-comparative study design in our research. In the interests of privacy, all the collected data including the publicly available Facebook users data was coded or categorised to ensure anonymity. Hence, the above mentioned factors were not analysed. However, these novel ideas could certainly be investigated in future studies.

Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this communication.

Reference

1. Rajan D, Pillai VG, Varghese P. Educational Utility of Social Media for Laparoscopic Surgery in India: A Cross-Sectional Survey of Popular Indian Communities on Facebook. *Adv Med Educ Pract*. 2021;12:491–498. doi:10.2147/AMEP.S306680

Correspondence: Vinod G Pillai
Department of Surgery, Believers Church Medical College Hospital, Thiruvalla, Kerala, 689103, India
Tel +91 469 3503100
Email drvinodpillai@gmail.com

Dove Medical Press encourages responsible, free and frank academic debate. The content of the Advances in Medical Education and Practice 'letters to the editor' section does not necessarily represent the views of Dove Medical Press, its officers, agents, employees, related entities or the Advances in Medical Education and Practice editors. While all reasonable steps have been taken to confirm the content of each letter, Dove Medical Press accepts no liability in respect of the content of any letter, nor is it responsible for the content and accuracy of any letter to the editor.

Advances in Medical Education and Practice

Dovepress

Publish your work in this journal

Advances in Medical Education and Practice is an international, peer-reviewed, open access journal that aims to present and publish research on Medical Education covering medical, dental, nursing and allied health care professional education. The journal covers undergraduate education, postgraduate training and continuing medical education

including emerging trends and innovative models linking education, research, and health care services. The manuscript management system is completely online and includes a very quick and fair peer-review system. Visit <http://www.dovepress.com/testimonials.php> to read real quotes from published authors.

Submit your manuscript here: <http://www.dovepress.com/advances-in-medical-education-and-practice-journal>

<https://doi.org/10.2147/AMEPS340397>