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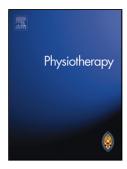
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Quality of web-based information for osteoarthritis: a cross-

sectional study

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Abstract

Background Osteoarthritis (OA) is a chronic condition that affects over 8.75 million people

in the UK. Approximately 43% of people in the UK search for health and medical

information online. However, health information on the internet is of variable quality.

Research into the quality of online OA information is dated and there is a need to evaluate the

existing information.

Objectives To assess the quality of websites which provide educational information for

patients with OA.

Design Electronic cross-sectional survey.

Methods The search term 'osteoarthritis' was entered into the five popular UK-based search

engines in order to identify 50 unique websites. These websites were appraised by two

assessors using criteria developed from the available literature and recent guidelines of the

1

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