High-impact Wikipedia editing to improve accessibility of evidence-based skin disease information

Importance

Wikipedia's top 500 skin-related articles receive over 16 million views per month. Since these viewers are healthcare consumers, Wikipedia's content should be evidence-based, unbiased, and up-to-date, to provide the best health literacy possible. To this end, we edited skin-related Wikipedia articles to include evidence-based information from Cochrane Skin reviews. This promoted the dissemination of high-quality dermatology information.

48	156	13 [i]	12.9K	112 [i]	20.7M
Articles Edited	Total Edits	Editors	Words Added	References Added	Article Views

The dermatology-related Wikipedia articles that were edited by the team amassed over 20 million new views from January 2018 to September 2019.

Methods

From 2018 to 2019, medical students and residents from U.S. medical schools were recruited to become Wikipedia editors. They were provided with dermatologist and Cochrane mentors and trained in editing technique.

Paraphrased conclusions, background information, and references from 65 Cochrane Skin reviews were added to 48 skin-specific English language articles on Wikipedia.

Key Results

The top 5 viewed articles accounted for 41% (8.4 million) of the total article view count. (Photo credits: Wikipedia)

Article	
Psoriasis (2.3M views)	
Leprosy (1.9M views)	
Cellulitis (1.8M views)	
Melanoma (1.3M views)	
Molluscum contagiosum (1.1M views)	

The **Cochrane-Wikipedia Partnership,** founded in 2014, promotes evidence-based health-related content on Wikipedia. Cochrane Review Groups, Centres, and Fields engage with Wikipedia to recruit and train editors and share high-quality Cochrane Review evidence.

- Wikipedia's vast influence and accessibility worldwide makes it an effective education tool.
- The Cochrane-Wikipedia initiative provides an opportunity for medical professionals to contribute to evidence-based, informative articles.

Future directions:
- Recruiting more trainees
- Improving skin-related Wikipedia content in other languages
- Further improvements article quality ratings
- Improving individual articles to the level of an academic paper that can be published in Wikipedia's new open-source medical publication WikiJournal of Medicine

For more information about how to participate, please visit: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Medicine/Cochrane/How.

Mary O Hutton[1], Jennifer E Dawson[2], Kachiu C Lee[3], Peter R Shumaker[4], Elizabeth Doney[5], Helen M Scott[5], Robert P Dellavalle[1,5]
[1]University of Colorado School of Medicine [2]Ottawa Hospital Research Institute [3]Brown University, Providence [4]Naval Medical Center, San Diego [5]Cochrane Skin