

Comment on “YouTube as a source of dermatologic information on isotretinoin”



To the Editor: We read with interest Xiang et al's recent article¹ commenting on YouTube as a source of dermatologic information on isotretinoin. This study evaluated the top 50 most-viewed YouTube videos that resulted from a query of “Accutane” and “isotretinoin.” Each video was graded across 5 categories, and the majority of the videos were found to have fair- or poor-quality medical information.

We too recognized the lack of quality educational resources for patients obtaining information from YouTube. We received funding through the American Academy of Dermatology (Excellence in Patient Care Award: Resident and Fellow Quality Improvement Award) to create an educational video with the goal of providing patients with excellent medical information regarding isotretinoin therapy, its adverse effects, and the iPledge Program. A tutorial on the iPledge Program website was also included.

This video is entitled “Isotretinoin (Accutane) and iPledge Program Patient Information,” and it can be found on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kGL77TPrjOU&t=>. It is unique in its comprehensiveness, including detailed information on the iPledge Program itself, which was mentioned in only 8% of the cases reported by Xiang et al.¹ In addition, unlike most other isotretinoin videos reported by Xiang et al. (94%), our video was produced by medical professionals (a board-certified dermatologist and a dermatology resident). After review of the criteria for the grading of medical information used by Xiang et al, we believe that the authors should have included the patient's ability to comprehend information

presented as a criterion, because readability and comprehension are known problems among isotretinoin educational materials.²

Additional investigation assessing patient comprehension with our video resource versus traditional counseling is currently underway. So far, this video has been well received by patients and providers because it provides comprehensive counseling regarding isotretinoin and the iPledge Program, in addition to improving clinic flow and provider efficiency.

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Reprints not available from the authors.

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