USE OF INTERNET FOR HEALTH INFORMATION AMONG MALAYSIAN YOUNG ADULTS

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ABSTRACT

The increasing accessibility of internet has unquestionably changed the flow of information. The use of the internet to obtain health-related information around the world continues to increase. A descriptive study of 100 Malaysian young adults was done aimed to determine the extent of the use of the internet for health information and its influence on the health care decisions.

The study found differences in internet use for online health information by gender and by level of education. Results revealed most young adults respondents were Chinese, females and aged between 19-24 years. Females were more likely to use the internet for health information than males. The online health topics mostly searched for were health and fitness and beauty and wellness and majority of them felt that seeking for health information online is easy. Although the usage of internet is high, young adults do not use it often for online health information.

Based on the *t*-test, there was a significant relationship between the males and females on the health information topics weight loss and doctors online. Additionally, there was a significant difference between the genders in relation to the statements on impact of online health information.