Reviewer’s report

Title: Who can you trust? A review of free online sources of "trustworthy" information about treatment effects for patients and the public

Version: 0 Date: 11 Jul 2018

Reviewer: Zhaohua Deng

Reviewer’s report:

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This study identifies and evaluates free sources of health information for patients and the public that provide information about the effects of treatments based on systematic reviews.

I acknowledge the potential of this study to add to the current understanding on the reliability of the information about treatment effects. I think the authors has focused on a meaningful work. My questions and suggestions about the current version are as follows:

First, in the section of background, authors should explain the importance of the research question, the motivation of this research in more spaces.

Second, only three websites were examined in this paper mainly based on two inclusion criteria: information about treatment effects was explicitly based on systematic reviews and were intended for patients and the public. How many users on these three websites? Whether patients/public mainly use them to search medical information? Comparing the users on the other 31 websites, whether the users on the three websites account for a large proportion. Authors should explain the representativeness of the sample.

Third, this paper focuses on these websites that are not limited to specific conditions or types of treatments. As more and more platforms focus on specific diseases and often more popular among patients, more explanation is needed for this criterion.

Fourth, I recognize the authors did a lot of work, however, there are still many limitations in this work. The detailed limitations with future directions are needed in "conclusions" part.

Fifth, the authors try to identify and evaluate health information. How to determine it? What the standards? More explanation is needed in Method part to help readers to understand better.

Are the methods appropriate and well described? If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.
Unable to assess

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