

# Primary Care Physicians and Their Information Seeking Behavior

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# Methods

- A different study type:
  - Done in the medical point of view
  - With slightly different questions
  - More concerned with the “perception” of information resources
  - In 1999
  - In Norway
  - With a Large sample size (10% of all doctors in the country)

# Breakdown

- 1276 respondents (78%)
- 22% survey responders were primary care doctors with average age of 46.3 years
- 58% were hospital doctors with an average of 43.7 years from birth
- 25% primary care doctors were female vs. 34% of hospital doctors

# Reported Results

- Primary Care Physicians
  - Reported an average of 111 minutes reading medical journals
    - » Compared with 163 minutes for hospital docs
  - Reported 56 minutes reading books
    - » 111 minutes for hospital docs
  - Total 167 minutes
  - Vs 249 results

# Congresses/ Courses

- Losing Favor as a means of medical information: 52% attended 10 days or more Courses of congresses.
  - But still a better average than the doctors as a whole with only 47% doctors devoting an equal amount of time

61% were satisfied with CME activities as opposed to 52% of doctors as a whole



# Internet

A lower proportion of primary care doctors had access to the internet 59% vs. 76% (in the US today those numbers are 99% vs. 100%)

However access did not effect usage with an average of 50 minutes a week was devoted to internet use. (similar non effect has been noted in some us studies)

12% thought is was valuable vs. 17% of all docs (in the US there is a higher "perceived" value however its unclear if that translates in greater usage)

# Attitudes

The increasing body of medical information...

	%agree
Makes me a better doctor in my daily work....	53
Does steal time from my non-professional activities....	47
Gives me a feeling powerlessness towards my colleges....	37
Gives me a feeling of professional impotence....	36
Gives me a feeling of professional control....	36
Gives me a feeling of powerlessness towards patients....	31
Makes me a better researcher....	5

# Coping

- Primary care doctor's got better at coping since 1993 and were better than hospital docs
- Female docs sighted greater distress when it came using information (an affect of the questions?)
- People who coped with the information devoted more time to it 120 minutes vs. 95 minutes



# Their Conclusions

- The general trend of less time devoted to reading is not a good sign given the increased amount of resources. However it is line with the general publics attitudes
- Primary care doctors spent less than their counterparts using informal ways of learning and were more ambivalent towards the increased body of medical information
- Norway's regulations got in the way of at work internet access statistics
- People who could not cope with the increasing resources were more likely to read less and burnout.

# Questions?

How do think the cultural differences affected the study?

What differences did the studies source make on the results? (i.e. the medical prospective vs. Information science prospective?)

What surprised you or seems out of place in the results?