

**PP 84**

**Online health information-seeking behaviour among patients attending to the outpatient department of Dompe Divisional Hospital (E Hospital)**

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**Background:** The internet plays a significant role in obtaining health information. Literature shows a paucity of data on the online health information-seeking behaviour of patients in developing countries.

**Objective:** To assess the online health information-seeking behaviour among patients attending the outpatient department of Dompe E hospital.

**Method:** A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted from April 2020 to January 2021. A pre-tested, self-administered questionnaire containing socio-demographics, health status, online health information-seeking behaviour, and eHealth literacy were distributed to conveniently selected internet using adult patients. The data were summarized using descriptive statistics. Chi-square tests was used to test associations between variables. The eHealth literacy was measured using Norman and Skinner’s eHEALS scale.

**Results:** The response rate was 93.0% (102/110). More than half of the participants were females, and educated up to GCE A/L. The highest number of respondents were between 26-35 years. Online health information-seeking of the sample was 58.0%. The mean value of the total eHealth literacy score among online health information seekers (59/102) was 28±4.7 and 61.0% had a ehealth literacy below the mean eHealth literacy score. The most common online resources for seeking health information were video sharing sites (64.4%), and social media (62.7%). Top reasons for choosing a resource was convenience (67.8%), and easiness to understand (66.1%). Among patients who seek online health information (n=59), 20.3% did so monthly. Findings show that there is an association between age and online health information-seeking (p=0.04).

**Conclusion:** The majority of the sample seeks health information online but among these seekers more than half had low eHealth literacy. This study suggests that acknowledging and educating patients on online health information-seeking and recommendation of good health information sources by professionals is needed to improve patient’s online health seeking behaviour and ehealth literacy.