Podcasts for drug information: a survey of pharmacy-related podcasts

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BACKGROUND

- Podcasts are available as on-demand audio segments to be used to disseminate knowledge that pharmacists and other healthcare professionals find useful in clinical practice.1-3
- The number of podcasts concerning the practice of pharmacy has risen over the last decade.
- The different types of pharmacy podcasts and their place in practice has not been described—particularly as a resource for drug information (DI).

OBJECTIVE

To assess the types of pharmacy podcasts that are available as a potential resource for drug information and describe the content focus as well as the format.

METHODS

Search Criteria:
- Podcast applications
- Apple Podcasts, Google Play, Spotify, Stitcher, Soundcloud, Spreaker, Overcast, Podbean, Pocket Casts, Breaker, Castbox, Castro, Downcast, Himalaya, Luminary
- Podcasts from stand-alone websites that offer their own library of podcasts.
- Search term “Pharmacy”
- Categorization:
  - One to two episodes from each podcast were skimmmed.
  - Categorized based on their potential utility for drug information, content, and the format

RESULTS

Table 1: Likelihood of DI Utility by Type of Podcast Content

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Podcast Content</th>
<th>n (%)</th>
<th>Likely</th>
<th>Possibly</th>
<th>Unlikely</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lifestyle</td>
<td></td>
<td>7 (5.93)</td>
<td>13 (11.02)</td>
<td>19 (16.10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical</td>
<td></td>
<td>6 (5.08)</td>
<td>11 (9.32)</td>
<td>20 (16.95)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practice</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 (0.85)</td>
<td>1 (0.85)</td>
<td>19 (16.10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Development</td>
<td></td>
<td>0 (0.00)</td>
<td>0 (0.00)</td>
<td>11 (9.32)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td></td>
<td>0 (0.00)</td>
<td>0 (0.00)</td>
<td>11 (9.32)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variety</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 (0.85)</td>
<td>11 (9.32)</td>
<td>8 (6.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>32 (27.12)</td>
<td>32 (27.12)</td>
<td>78 (66.1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1: Likelihood for Drug Information Utility

- Likely 7%
- Possibly 27%
- Unlikely 66%

Figure 2: Types of Podcast

- Lifestyle 27.97%
- Medical 16.95%
- Practice 27.12%
- Professional Development 13.50%
- Student 9.32%
- Variety 0.85%

Figure 3: Format of Podcast

- Lecture 91.50%
- Interview 72%
- Discussion 53.30%
- Q&A 13.50%

Figure 3: Podcast format percentages are listed above. Because podcasts often had multiple segments, many are combinations of multiple formats.

CONCLUSION

- There are many enriching pharmacy podcasts covering many different areas of practice.
- Most pharmacy podcasts are unlikely to be used as a resource for drug information, however some may offer utility elsewhere.
- Podcasts may offer additional information that can be used to enrich knowledge surrounding pharmacy practice, professional development, or even life in general.
- The limited number of podcasts that can be used as a drug information resource presents an opportunity to continue development in drug information.
- Furthermore, podcasts about drug information topics may be a service that drug information centers can pursue in the future.

REFERENCES


DISCUSSION

- As of November 2019, 125 podcasts exist relating to the topic of pharmacy.
- These podcasts were reviewed and seven were excluded for not relating to pharmacy or being in a language other than English (n=118).
- The majority of podcasts available were unlikely to be resources for drug information.
- Most podcasts were “lifestyle” podcasts that focused on exposing listeners to different areas of practice or discussions about personal life improvement. In addition, a large number of podcasts were “practice” podcasts that focused on the practice of pharmacy.
- By format of podcasts, the majority were interviews, discussions, and lectures while few had Q&A sessions.

Disclosures

Authors of this presentation have the following to disclose concerning possible financial or personal relationships with commercial entities that may have a direct or indirect interest in the subject matter of this presentation.
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