ChatGPT Simplifies Breast Cancer Information for Better Understanding

In a recent study published in Radiology: Imaging Cancer, researchers explored the potential of ChatGPT, an advanced language model, as a tool to simplify information about breast cancer prevention and screening. The aim was to make this vital information more accessible and easier to comprehend for a wider audience.

ChatGPT for patient information: easier to understand

The study, conducted retrospectively, involved requesting ChatGPT to simplify responses to 25 common questions about breast cancer to a reading level equivalent to that of a sixth-grader. This process took place twice, in March and August 2023. The simplified responses were then evaluated for their clinical appropriateness.

The results were promising. ChatGPT significantly improved the readability of the responses. On average, the simplified responses had a reading ease score of 70, compared to the original responses' score of 46. Additionally, the readability of the simplified responses was at a grade level of 8.9, whereas the original responses were at a higher grade level of 13. This means that ChatGPT reduced the complexity of the language used, making it easier for patients to understand.

ChatGPT for patient information: more concise

Furthermore, the simplified responses were more concise, with a decreased word count from 193 to 173 on average. Despite being simplified, 92% of the responses were considered clinically appropriate, highlighting the accuracy of the information provided. One of the most significant findings was that all of the simplified responses met the criteria for adequate reading ease, compared to only two out of 25 original responses. This indicates a substantial improvement in accessibility and comprehension of the information.

ChatGPT for patient information: some oversight still needed

However, it's important to note that while ChatGPT can simplify information effectively, there is a potential for it to produce incorrect information. Therefore, the researchers emphasize the necessity of physician oversight when using this tool. This ensures that the information provided remains accurate and reliable.

ChatGPT shows promise as a tool for simplifying complex medical information, such as that related to breast cancer prevention and screening. By making this information easier to understand, it has the potential to empower individuals to make informed decisions about their health. Nevertheless, caution must be exercised, and medical professionals should continue to oversee its use to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information provided.

Source: RSNA

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