

Appendix 2: Informed consent

Invitation letter

Objective: Interpretation of health news items: an academic study

We invite you to participate in an international academic study to investigate people's understanding of health news items.

The study will require only a minimal amount of work on your part, and you will be helping to improve the reporting/communication of results related to medical research in health news for patients and the public.

Your participation would involve in reading a news item and answering five short questions about the findings in the news item. To avoid any biased interpretation, the description of the treatment and name of the study has been masked.

Your responses will be kept confidential. This study has been approved by INSERM, Institutional Review Board (IRB 00003888).

We will share with you the results of this study upon its completion.

You can complete the survey by XX

Or by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: XX

With best wishes

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If you prefer not to receive future reminders regarding this study, please click here.

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Please complete some simple information about yourself

Your age:

Sex: Female Male

Do you have a chronic health condition yes/ no (*according to the answer, the participant will be directed to the survey dedicated to patients or to the public*)

Where are you currently located? France/ UK/ Other European country/ USA/ Canada/ South America/ Asia/ Oceania

How often do you read news items? Never/sometimes (once per month)/often (once per week)/daily

Do you rely on health news items to decide about your health?

What is your primary source to obtain information related to new treatments?

Physicians/family or friends/online health news/television/social media/other

Submit

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This news item describes a study evaluating a treatment published in a peer-reviewed journal.

Insertion of the news items

Based on the information reported in the news, please answer the following questions about the treatment:

1. *What do you think is the probability that “treatment X” would be beneficial to patients? (scale, 0 [very unlikely] to 10 [very likely]) (Primary outcome)*
2. *What do you think is the size of the potential benefit for patients? (scale, [none, small, moderate or large])*
3. *How safe do you think that this treatment X would be for patients? (scale, 0 [very unsafe] to 10 [very safe])*
4. *Do you think this treatment should be offered to patients in the short term? (scale, 0 [absolutely no] to 10 [absolutely yes])*
5. *Do you think this treatment will make a difference in the existing clinical practice? (scale, 0 [absolutely no] to 10 [absolutely yes])*

Do you have any comments?

Write your comment here ...

Submit

Thank you very much for your participation in this study.

If you wish to receive the results of this study, please indicate your email address here.