Foot and Ankle Fellowship Websites: An Assessment of Accessibility and Quality

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Disclosures

• Richard M. Hinds, MD: No disclosures related to this research.

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Background

• The Internet has been reported to be the first informational resource for many fellowship applicants.
• Despite being a popular resource, no accessibility or quality standards exist for fellowship websites.
• The objective of this study was to assess the accessibility of orthopaedic foot and ankle fellowship websites and to evaluate the quality of information provided via program websites.
Methods

• The AOFAS and the FREIDA fellowship databases were reviewed to generate a list of orthopaedic foot and ankle fellowship programs.
• The databases were reviewed for links to fellowship program websites and compared with program websites accessed from a Google search.
• Accessible fellowship websites were then analyzed for the quality of recruitment and educational content pertinent to fellowship applicants.
Results

• Forty-seven orthopaedic foot and ankle fellowship programs were identified.
• The AOFAS database featured direct links to 7 (15%) fellowship websites with the independent Google search yielding direct links to 29 (62%) websites.
• No direct website links were provided in the FREIDA database.
• Thirty-six accessible websites were analyzed for content.
Results

• Mean recruitment content quality score was 4.4 ± 1.7 out of 10.
Results

- Mean educational content quality score was $4.3 \pm 2.3$ out of 10.
Conclusions

• Our study demonstrates variable accessibility and quality of foot and ankle fellowship websites.

• Fellowship websites may be underutilized in the presentation of orthopaedic subspecialty training information to fellowship applicants.

• Recognition of deficits in accessibility and content quality may assist foot and ankle fellowship programs in improving information online.
References

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