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Sene, A ; Khamlich, K ; Bourzgui, F.

Corresponding author:

Alioune Sene

sene.aliou50@gmail.com

Author Affiliation:Orthodontics Department, Faculty of
Dentistry, University Hassan II,
Casablanca, Morocco.**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION****Support** - No support.**Review Stage at time of this submission** - Data extraction.**Conflicts of interest** - None declared.**INPLASY registration number:** INPLASY202680074**Amendments** - This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 19 August 2026 and was last updated on 19 August 2026.**INTRODUCTION**

Review question / Objective This systematic review was conducted to answer the following question: What is the quality of orthodontic information disseminated on social media according to the data available in the literature?

The objective of this systematic review is to assess the quality of orthodontic information disseminated on social media, based on studies that evaluated its content, reliability, and quality using explicit assessment instruments, including DISCERN, modified DISCERN, the Global Quality Scale (GQS), and the Video Information and Quality Index (VIQI).

Rationale Social media has become an increasingly important source of health information for patients, including those seeking information about orthodontic treatments, procedures, risks, and outcomes. However, the information available on these platforms is heterogeneous and may vary considerably in terms of content, reliability, and

quality. Numerous studies have assessed orthodontic information disseminated through social media using explicit assessment instruments, including DISCERN, modified DISCERN, the Global Quality Scale (GQS), and the Video Information and Quality Index (VIQI). Nevertheless, the findings of these studies remain dispersed across different platforms and orthodontic topics. This systematic review therefore aims to synthesize the available evidence regarding the quality of orthodontic information disseminated on social media.

Condition being studied The condition being studied is the quality of orthodontic information disseminated on social media. This includes information related to orthodontic treatments, procedures, appliances, risks, complications, patient education, and other orthodontic topics available through social media platforms. The review focuses on studies that have assessed the content, reliability, and quality of this information using explicit assessment instruments.

METHODS

Search strategy An electronic literature search was conducted in the PubMed/MEDLINE, Embase, and Scopus databases to identify relevant studies addressing the research question. The publication period considered ranged from 2011 to 2026.

The search strategy was based on the combination of terms related to three main concepts: orthodontics, information and its quality, and social media. The main keywords used included: orthodontics; braces; information; quality; access to information; social media; social network; mobile social network; mobile social media; YouTube; TikTok; Instagram; Facebook; WhatsApp. The terms were combined using the Boolean operators AND and OR, according to the specific features of each database.

The main search equations explored included:

Information AND orthodontic

Information AND orthodontic AND mobile social network

Quality AND orthodontic AND information

Social media AND quality AND information AND orthodontic

(Orthodontic OR braces) AND (YouTube OR TikTok)

Information AND orthodontic AND (Facebook OR Instagram)

The search strategy mainly targeted studies assessing the quality and reliability of orthodontic information disseminated on social media.

A complementary manual search was also carried out using the reference lists of relevant publications in order to identify any additional studies potentially meeting the eligibility criteria.

Participant or population The population of interest consists of orthodontic content disseminated on social media and video-sharing platforms, including YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp, X (formerly Twitter), and Reddit. The review includes studies assessing the quality and reliability of orthodontic information available on these platforms.

Intervention Not applicable. This systematic review does not evaluate a clinical intervention. It assesses the quality, reliability, and content of orthodontic information disseminated on social media, using the assessment methods reported in the included studies.

Comparator Not applicable. No specific comparator was predefined for this systematic review.

Study designs to be included Studies analyzing orthodontic content disseminated on social media

or popular video-sharing platforms and assessing the quality and reliability of orthodontic information using an explicit assessment method will be included.

Eligibility criteria Studies published between 2011 and 2026 will be included. Eligible studies must analyze orthodontic content disseminated on social media or popular video-sharing platforms, including YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp, X (formerly Twitter), and Reddit; assess the quality and reliability of orthodontic information disseminated on these platforms; and use an explicit method for assessing quality, reliability, or content, including DISCERN, modified DISCERN, the Global Quality Scale (GQS), or the Video Information and Quality Index (VIQI).

Publications not directly related to orthodontics, studies not involving content disseminated on social media, such as websites, publications that do not allow assessment of the quality and reliability of the information studied, studies without an explicit assessment method, and publications published before 2011 will be excluded.

Information sources Electronic literature searches will be conducted in PubMed/MEDLINE, Embase, and Scopus. The publication period considered will extend from 2011 to 2026. A complementary manual search will also be conducted through the reference lists of relevant publications in order to identify additional studies potentially meeting the eligibility criteria.

Main outcome(s) The main outcome is the quality of orthodontic information disseminated on social media. This outcome will be assessed based on the quality, reliability, and content measures reported in the included studies, using explicit assessment instruments, including DISCERN, modified DISCERN, the Global Quality Scale (GQS), and the Video Information and Quality Index (VIQI).

Additional outcome(s) None predefined.

Data management Data from the included studies will be collected using a standardized data extraction form. The extracted variables will include authors and year of publication, study type, social media platform studied, orthodontic topic analyzed, type and number of contents evaluated, quality and reliability assessment instruments, and the main results and conclusions of the authors. Bibliographic references will be managed using Zotero software.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis The methodological quality of the included studies will be assessed using the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) Critical Appraisal tools. The assessment will consider, in particular, the clarity of the selection criteria, the description of the sample, the validity and reliability of the measurement methods, the use of appropriate assessment criteria, and the appropriateness of the statistical methods used.

Strategy of data synthesis Because of the heterogeneity of the social media platforms studied, the orthodontic topics addressed, the characteristics of the content analyzed, and the assessment instruments used, the data will not be considered sufficiently homogeneous to allow a meta-analysis. A descriptive synthesis of the results, taking into account the methodological characteristics of the included studies, will therefore be performed.

Subgroup analysis No subgroup analysis is planned.

Sensitivity analysis None predefined.

Language restriction No language restriction was specified.

Country(ies) involved Morocco; Senegal.

Other relevant information None.

Keywords Orthodontics; braces; information; quality; access to information; social media; social network; mobile social network; mobile social media; YouTube; TikTok; Instagram.

Contributions of each author

Author 1 - Alioune Sene.

Email: sene.aliou50@gmail.com

Author 2 - Kenza Khamlich.

Email: kenza.khamlich94@gmail.com

Author 3 - Farid Bourzgui.

Email: faridbourzgui@gmail.com