LARRY WEBER

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Social Networking and Diabetes – Does the Research Match with the Reality?





BE THE SOLUTION.

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Learning Outcomes

- People with diabetes are less likely than other U.S. adults to have access to the Internet, but once online just as likely to take advantage of resources
- Living with a chronic disease has a predictive effect on someone's social behavior related to health
- Diabetes social networking websites have enormous reach and scope, but also variability in their quality, transparency and safety
- For diabetes social networking to be incorporated into physician Clinical Practice Guidelines at a level of evidence above expert opinion, more studies must be done demonstrating their efficacy





Learning Outcomes

- Grappling with a chronic illness involves far more than clinical outcomes
- The social & psychological needs of people living with chronic illnesses have NOT been adequately met by our healthcare system; social media can help fill those gaps
- "For acceptance from the scientific community, we do need to have a [randomized control] study... But we don't HAVE to seek for that acceptance" -- Korey Hood
- Most PWDs wish their doctors HAD recommended this experience to them earlier



