

# Health Cards to Assist Decision Making in Consumer Health Search

**Oral Presentations - Patient-centered Informatics** 

S47

### Jimmy

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I have no relevant relationships with commercial interests to disclose.



After participating in this session, the learner should be better able to:

- learn challenges and possible solutions in assisting consumer health search users in making health decisions by searching from search engines.
- understand the concept of health cards and how health cards influence decision making in consumer health search.

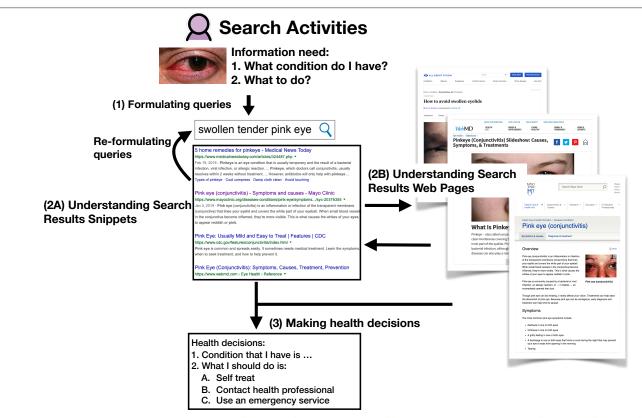
# **Consumer Health Search (CHS)**



- CHS: people searching for health advice online.
  - 59% of U.S. adults has searched online for health information [Fox & Duggan, 2013].
  - 7% of Google searches are health related ~ 70,000 health queries/minute [Murphy, 2019].
- Search results strongly **bias people**'s health decisions [Pogacar, 2017; White, 2009].
- People struggle to understand health search results and fail to make correct health decisions [Alpay, 2009; Kobayashi & Ishizaki, 2019].
- 59% of self-diagnosers decided NOT to confirm their condition with a health professional [Fox & Duggan, 2013].

# **Search Activities**





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# **Health Card for CHS**

- Entity cards have been used by commercial search engines to present coherent, easy to understand and trustworthy information [Radlinski, 2015].
- The appearance of a health card is triggered by queries that contain a health condition name or its aliases.
- We investigate the benefits of health cards for broader search tasks beyond just more information about a health condition.





# Search Task



For a health scenario, make the following two decisions:

- 1. What is the **most possible condition for the scenario**?
- 2. What to do / level of urgency ?
  - a) Use emergency service
  - b) Contact a health professional
  - c) Self treat

### Sample scenario:

**Scenario**: Your 12-year-old daughter had a sudden severe abdominal pain with nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Her body temperature is 40C.

### Correct Diagnosis: Appendicitis

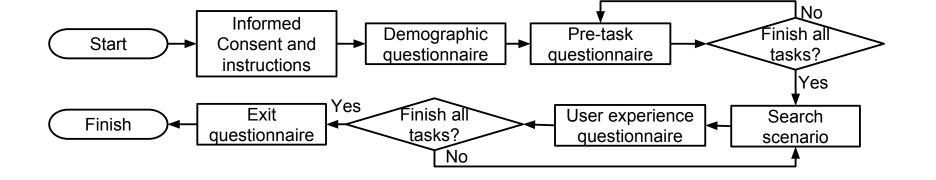
### Correct Urgency Level: Emergency

[Semigran et al., 2015]

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# Methods: User Study

- 8 health search tasks X 64 Participants = 512 Data Points
- Search interfaces:
  - Correct VS Incorrect Cards
  - Single VS. Multiple Cards



# The Four Search Interfaces



High blood pressure

### With a Correct Card

### Single-Card

Meningitis About Symptoms Severe headache and stiff neck nflamed meninge ause pain flammation of brain and spinal cord membranes pically caused by an infection. Treatable by a medical professional Spreads by airborne droplets Requires a medical diagnosis Short-term: resolves within days to weeks Symptoms include headache, fever and stiff neck Critical: Consult a doctor for medical advice Sources: Mayo Clinic



Treatable by a medical professional

Lab tests or imaging rarely required

Consult a doctor for medical advice

Sources: Mayo Clinic

Chronic: can last for years or be lifelong

Migraine headaches can cause throbbing in one

sensitivity to light and sound are also common

particular area that can vary in intensity. Nausea and

Usually self-diagnosable

symptoms



Treatable by a medical professional

C Short-term: recolver within dawr to weeks

Critical: Consult a doctor for medical advice

Symptoms include headache, fever and stiff neck.

( Spreads by airborne droplets

Bequires a medical diagnosis

Sources: Mayo Clinic

Meningitis





Multi-Cards

Encephalitis

Spreads by animals or insects

Requires a medical diagnosis

loss of sensation.

Sources: Mayo Clinic

Short-term: resolves within days to week

May cause no symptoms or mild flu-like symptoms

medical attention is needed for symptoms such as

confusion, hallucinations, seizures, weakness and

Critical: Consult a doctor for medical advice

Severe cases can be life-threatening. Immediate





A condition in which the force of the blood against the artery walls is too high.

- Treatable by a medical professional
- E Requires a medical diagnosis
- Lab tests or imaging not required
- Chronic: can last for years or be lifelon; High blood pressure often has no symptoms. Over time, if untreated, it can cause health conditions,

such as heart disease and stroke. Sources: Mayo Clinic

### No Correct Card

Migraine Also called: migraine headache	Migraine Also called: migraine headache	Encephalitis Also called: inflammation of the brain	High blood pressure Also called: HBP, hypertension	Pink eye Also called: conjunctivitis
Abor Openor Database Provide the set field of the set fi	Alexa Symptom Textments	Abo Sympton Trainens Infinent Darf Carlo C	Abo Symptom Technologies	About Symptom Tradments  Fyre with conjunctivits  Compared with the symptom of th
A headache of varying intensity, often accompanied by nausea and sensitivity to light and sound.		A condition in which the force of the blood against the artery walls is too high.	Inflammation or infection of the outer membrane of the eyeball and the inner eyelid.	
Treatable by a medical professional     Unable of the second and the second	Trestable by a medical professional     Usually self-disponsable     Lossel sets or imaging comparison of the set of	Interdable by a medical protestional	Treatable by a medical professional Treatable by a medical professional Outputs a medical diagnosis Outputs of the set o	Spread early     Tratable by medical professional     Unually self-diagnosable     Short-term: resolves within days to weeks     Symptoms include redress, include and discharge or or uniting anound the syst.     Can also ded discharge or or uniting     Comutal a doctor for medical advice
Consult a doctor for medical advice Sources: Mayo Clinic	Consult a doctor for medical advice Sources: Mayo Clinic	Critical: Consult a doctor for medical advice Sources: Mayo Clinic	Sources: Mayo Clinic	Sources: Mayo Clinic

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# Why Showing Multi-cards?



- People submitted **underspecified queries** which often make **difficult** (if possible at all) **to determine** the single **correct health card** to present.
- Presenting possible health conditions side-by-side enables people to perform differential diagnosis.

## Search Interface with Multi-Cards

Sepsis



### Scenario 7 of 8:

child stomach ache vomiting diarrhea temperature

### Your 12-year-old daughter had a sudden severe abdominal pain with Matched Conditions nausea, vomitting, and diarrhea. Her body temperature is 40C.

### Tasks:

1. Copy and paste the most possible health condition for this scenario.

### 2. What would you do now?

- O Use an Emergency service. This includes calling 000 or immediately going to an hospital Emergency.
- O Contact an health professional. This includes make an appointment with a GP, a home doctor, or call a nurse helpline.
- O Self treat. This includes buying an over the counter medicine/drug, use an home-remedy, or performing activities to mitigate the condition.

### 3. How confident are you with your answers?

	Very NOT Confident	NOT Confident	Neutral	Confident	Very Confident	
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### 4. You consider the health cards shown in this scenario as:

All NOT Relevant	t	Some are Rele	vant	All Relevant
All are Difficult		Some are Easy	All	are Easy

to Understand to Understand to Understand All are NOT Some are All are

Trustworthy Trustworthy Trustworthy

Submit





- Lab tests or imaging always required

- Critical: Consult a doctor for medical advice





- Requires a medical diagnosis
- Treatable by a medical professional Short-term: resolves within days to weeks
- Symptoms include fever, difficulty breathing, low blood pressure, fast heart rate and mental confusion.

Sources: Mayo Clinic

Diarrhoea, cramps, nausea, vomiting and low-grade fever are common symptoms. Consult a doctor for medical advice Sources: Mayo Clinic

Spreads easily

Usually self-treatable

Usually self-diagnosable

Short-term: resolves within days to weeks





A common viral infection that can be deadly, especially in high-risk groups. Spreads easily Usually self-treatable Usually self-diagnosable Short-term: resolves within days to weeks

Symptoms include fever, chills, muscle aches, cough,

congestion, runny nose, headaches and fatigue. Consult a doctor for medical advice

Sources: Mayo Clinic

About Symptoms Treatments Causes severe abdominal pair Large intestine Inflamed appendix A condition in which the appendix becomes inflamed

Appendicitis

and filled with pus, causing pain.

- Requires a medical diagnosis
- Lab tests or imaging often required
- Treatable by a medical professional

Short-term: resolves within days to weeks

Appendicitis begins with pain near the belly button and then moves to the right side. This is often accompanied by nausea, vomiting, poor appetite. fever and chills.

Critical: Consult a doctor for medical advice Sources: Mayo Clinic

About 1,750,000 results

### Why Is My Child Throwing Up With No Fever? Nausea and ...

### https://www.webmd.com/children/auide/child-throw-up-no-fever

Usually, your child will also have nausea, watery diarrhea, and stomach pain. It's possible for food poisoning to cause fever, but it's common for it to cause throwing up with no fever, too.

### Diarrhea, Fever, Nausea or vomiting and Stomach cramps ...

### https://symptomchecker.webmd.com/multiple-symptoms?symptoms=diarrhea%7Cfever%7Cnausea-or-vomiting%7C...

Diarrhea, Fever, Nausea or vomiting and Stomach cramps. WebMD Symptom Checker helps you find the most common medical conditions indicated by the symptoms diarrhea, fever, nausea or vomiting and stomach cramps including Gastroenteritis, Food poisoning, and Irritable bowel syndrome.

### What are the Causes of Stomach Ache and Fever?

### https://www.wisegeek.com/what-are-the-causes-of-stomach-ache-and-fever.htm

When a person has a stomach ache and fever, one of the most likely causes of his symptoms is a stomach flu. Despite the misleading name, this condition is not related to influenza, but is caused by a virus that leads to such symptoms as pain, fever, diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting .

### Viral Gastroenteritis (Stomach Flu): Symptoms and Treatment https://www.healthline.com/health/viral-gastroenteritis

Symptoms can last from 1 to 10 days, including diarrhea, vomiting, and fever. Here are some self-care tips and home remedies for relief. Viral gastroenteritis, also known as the stomach flu, is an ...

## **Search Interface: Scenario and Tasks**



### Scenario 7 of 8: d Conditions Your 12-year-old daughter had a sudden severe abdominal pain with nausea, vomitting, and diarrhea. Her body temperature is 40C. Tasks: 1. Copy and paste the most possible health condition for this scenario. 2. What would you do now? O Use an Emergency service. This includes calling 000 or immediately going to an hospital Emergency. O Contact an health professional. This includes make an appointment with a GP, a home doctor, or call a nurse helpline. O Self treat. This includes buying an over the counter medicine/drug, use an home-remedy, or performing activities to mitigate the condition. 3. How confident are you with your answers? Very NOT NOT Neutral Confident Verv Confident Confident Confident 4. You consider the health cards shown in this scenario as: All NOT Relevant Some are Relevant All Relevant All are Difficult Some are Easy All are Easy to Understand to Understand to Understand All are NOT Some are All are Trustworthy Trustworthy Trustworthy Submit

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### c//symptomchecker.webmd.com/multiple-symptoms?symptoms=diarrhea%7Cfever%7Cnausea-or-vomiting%7C..

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12

## **Search Interface: Multi-Cards**



Your 12-year-old daughter had a sudden severe abdominal pain with				
	Matched Conditions			
Tasks: 1. Copy and paste the most possible health condition for this scenario	Sepsis Also called: septicemia	Stomach flu Also called: gastroenteritis	Flu Also called: influenza	Appendicitis
What would you do now?     Use an Emergency service. This includes calling 000 or immediately going to an hospital Emergency.     Contact an health professional. This includes make an appointment with a 04, home doct, or or all a nurse health.     Self treat. This includes buying an over the counter medicine/drug, use an home-remedy, or performing activities to mitigate the condition.     How confident are you with your answers?     Very HOT NOT Confident     Very HOT NOT Confident     A you consider the health cards shown in this scenario as:     All NOT Relevant Some are Relevant All Relevant     I an Official Some are Easy All are Easy to Understand	About         Symptoms         Treatments           Betterin in Infect         Betterin in Infect         Betterin in Infect           Betterin in Infect         Betterin in Infect         Betterin in Infect           A life-threatening complication of an infection.         Requires a medical diagnosis         Betterin inging always required           Betterin in Infection         Treatable by a medical professional         Betterin: resolves within days to weeks           Symptoms include fever, difficulty breathing, low biblood pressure, fast heart rate and mental confusion.         Bettering information include fever, difficulty breathing, low biblood pressure, fast heart rate and mental confusion.	About         Symptoms         Treatments           Image: Stormach interfact and the sto	About     Symptoms     Treatments       Fever and muscle aches     Image: Comparison of the symptoms     Image: Comparison of the symptoms       A common viral infection that can be deadly, especially in high-risk groups.     Image: Comparison of the symptoms       Image: Comparison of the symptoms     Image: Comparison of the symptoms       Image: Comparison of the symptoms     Image: Comparison of the symptoms       Image: Comparison of the symptoms include fever, chills, muscle aches, cough, Symptoms inclaches, cough, Symp	About Symptoms Treatment Causes severe abdominal pair Large intestine Inflamed appendix A condition in which the appendix becomes infla and filled with use, causing pain. A condition in which the appendix becomes infla and filled with use, cause ing pain. A condition in which the appendix becomes infla and filled with use, cause ing pain. B Requires a medical professional C Lab tests or imaging often required Treatable by a medical professional C Short-term: resolves within days to weeks Appendicitis begins with pain near the belly but
All are NOT Trustworthy Trustworthy Trustworthy Submit	Critical: Consult a doctor for medical advice Sources: Mayo Clinic	fever are common symptoms. Consult a doctor for medical advice Sources: Mayo Clinic	congestion, runny nose, headaches and fatigue. Consult a doctor for medical advice Sources: Mayo Clinic	and then moves to the right side. This is often accompanied by nausea, vomiting, poor appetite fever and chills. Critical: Consult a doctor for medical advice Sources: Mayo Clinic

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13

# **Search Interface: Snippet List**



### Scenario 7 of 8:

Very NOT NOT Confident		Confident	Very Confident
------------------------	--	-----------	-------------------

All NOT Releva	nt Some ar	e Rele	vant	All Relevan
All are Difficult to Understand	Some are E to Underst			are Easy nderstand
All are NOT	Some are		ll are	

Trustworthy	Trustworthy	Trustworthy













### About 1,750,000 results

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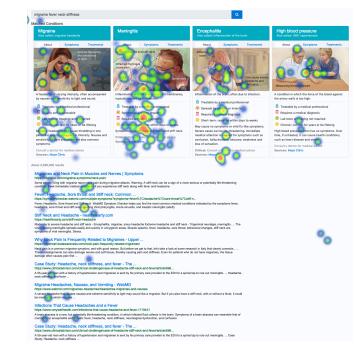
Symptoms can last from 1 to 10 days, including diarrhea, vomiting, and fever. Here are some self-care tips and home remedies for relief. Viral gastroenteritis, also known as the stomach flu, is an ...

### **Impact of Health Cards on** Search Behavior

49% of search session time was spent to interact with the Single-Card interface.

migraine fever neck stiffness	
About 3,390,000 results	
Migraines and Neck Pain in Muscles and Nerves   Symptoms https://migraine.com/commission-pain/or migraine attacks. Waining A still reack can be a sign of a none serious or potentiatly life threatening containes, Seek meaked medical astilationed in your performed into skines will forward headache.	Meningitis
containon, seek minesiale micro assistance is you septence sam next acreg winn lever and nextacrite.  Fever, "hadache, Sore throat and Stiff neck: Common  https://simplomchecker.webmd.com/multiple-symptoms?ever/%7Cheadache%7Cscre-throat%7Cstiff=n  Fever, Headache, Sore throat and Stiff neck. (WebMD Symptom:Telever%7Cheadache%7Cscre-throat%7Cstiff=n  Fever, Headache, Sore throat and Stiff neck.(WebMD Symptom:Telever%7Cheadache%7Cstiff=n  Fever, Headache, Sore throat and Stiff neck.(WebMD Symptom:Telever%7Cheadache%7Cstiff=n  Fever, Headache, Sore throat and Stiff neck.(WebMD Symptom:Telever%7Cheadache%7Cstiff=n  Fever, Headache, Sore throat and Stiff neck.(WebMD Symptom:Telever%7Cheadache%7Cstiff=n)	Abort Symptoms Treat
Stiff Next* and Headache - healthhearty.com https://mauprenty.com/stifi-ceck-headache Modernie to gewer deadache and stiff-ceck-headache	Inflamed meninges cause pain Skull
vius acquising memiopits spreads easily and quickly in urhysienic areas. Muscle sparms, fever, headache, sore throat, behavioral changes, stiff neck are sympther as year instructors. Spreads. Why Not.: Pain Is Preduently Related to Migraines - Upper	Brain
https://uperconclustewareness.com/nedc-pain-frequently-related-mirginites/ Neck pain is a como migrate symptom, and with good reason. But before we get to that, ter's take a look at some research in taky that clearly connects These missiognemets can also damage nerves and so tosue, thereby causing pain and stiffness. Even for patients who do not have migratines, the tissue damage often cause pain for	typically caused by an infection.  Treatable by a medical professional  Spreads by airborne droplets
Case Study: Head sche, neck stiffness, and fever - The https://www.clinicalasvisoc.com/clinical-halenge/cases-of-headsche-stiff-neck-and-fever/article/696 A 55-veer-off and with a haltory of hypertension and minisma is sent by his informary care provider to the EDI for a spinal tap to rule out meninatis Headsche.	<ul> <li>Requires a medical diagnosis</li> <li>Short-term: resolves within days to week</li> </ul>
neck stillness, and free Migraine Heads as, Nausea, and Vorniting - WebMD https://www.vebmodmingraines-headsches-headsches-migraines-and-nausea	Symptoms include headache, fever and stiff n Critical: Consult a doctor for medical advice Sources: Mayo Clinic
A severe headache that causes nauses and extreme sensitivity to light may sound like a migraine. But if you also have a stiff neck, with or without a fever, it could be meringitis, which requires	
Infections That Cause Headaches and a Fever https://www.verywellhealth.com/infections-that-cause-headache-and-fever-1719431 A brain abscess is array, but potentially life-threatening condition, in which infected fluid collects in the brain. Symptoms of a brain abscess can resemble that of	-
meningitis or encephaltis and include: fever, headache, neck stiffness, neurological dysfunction, and confusion. Case Study: Headache, neck stiffness, and fever - The	
https://www.clinicaladvisor.com/clinical-challenge/case-of-headach-estift-neck-and-fever/article/696 A 55-year-old man with a history of hypertension and migraines is sent by his primary care provider to the EDt for a spinal tap to rule out meninglits Case Study: Headacher, neck stiftless =	
i got headaches but no fever my neck quite stiff so am i https://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20100103044418AA0w8pj	
I got headaches but no fever my neck quile stiff so am i fine? I got headache and stiff neck and very giddyXD. Follow	
Stiff neck? Blinding headache? HELP!!!?   Yahoo Answers https://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20070930182129AA3vyT6	
Last right (18 the worst because ) was voniting, had volved rights and a fewer. Should show more For the past four days have had a horitize headsche. My have pounds and E is worse with high COLUD STILL BE A MIGRAINE BUT WITH A STIFF NECK AND THE OTHER SYMPTOMS YOU NEED TO GO TO THE E.R. NIOHT NOW AND BE CHECKED	

### 82% of search session time was spent to interact with the Multi-Cards interface.







# **Measurements**



1. **Selected** as a source of information



4. Reduce the **effort** to complete a task



2. Lead to more **correct** decisions



5. Increase rate of **Good** abandonment\*



3. Reduce **time** to complete a task



6. Improve **confidence** on decisions

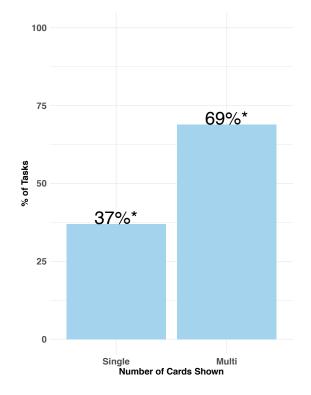


\* Good abandonment is when people manage to complete a task without clicking on the search results.

# Are Health Cards Selected as a Source of Information? (1)



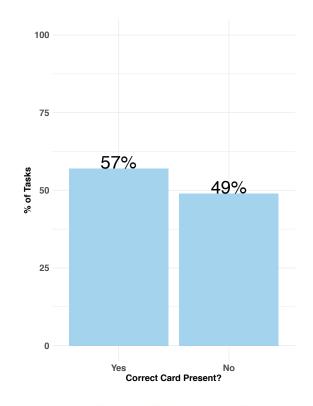
People selected information from multi-cards significantly more frequent than from single-card.



# Are Health Cards Selected as a Source of Information? (2)

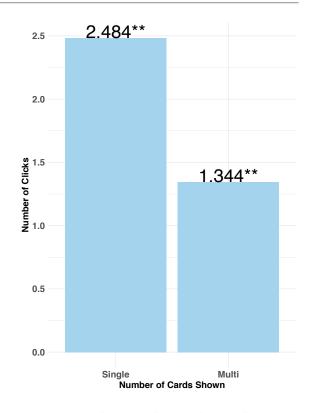
ie ab

People select from health cards regardless the correctness of health cards.



### **Does Presenting Health Cards Reduce Effort to Complete a Task?**

- Effort is translated as the number of clicks required to complete a task.
- The **multi-cards** interface enables people to make health decisions with **significantly less effort** than the the single card interface.

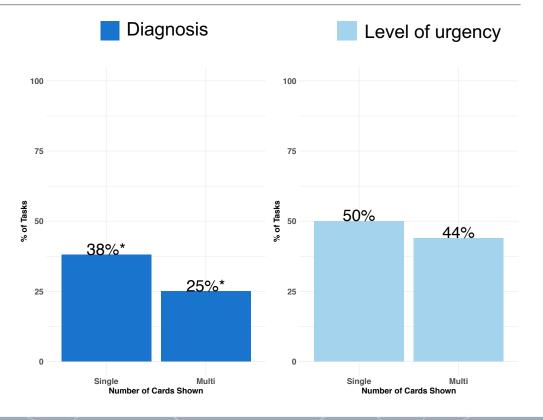




### **Does Presenting Health Cards Improve the Number of Correct Decisions? (1)**

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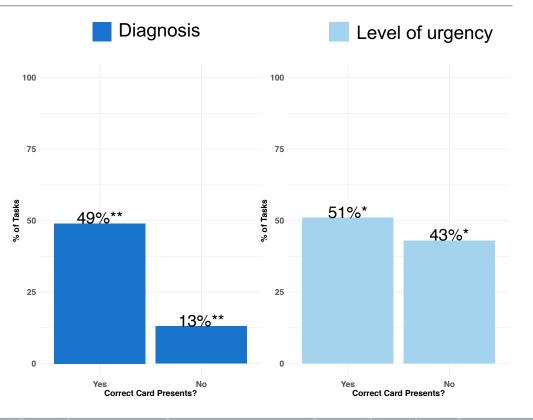
**Single-card** interface leads to a significantly **higher number of correct diagnosis** than multi-cards interface.



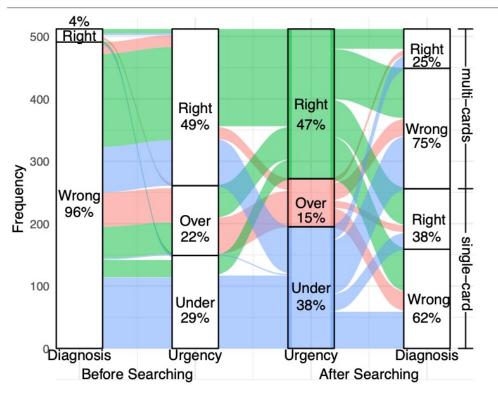
# Is Presenting Health Cards Improves the Number of Correct Decisions? (2)



- The correctness of decisions is dependent to the correctness of the presented health card.
- This is inline with findings from a previous study by Pogacar et al. in 2017.



### **Correctness of Decisions Before and After Search**





- Search activities lead to significant increase of correct diagnosis.
- Search activities did NOT lead to better level of urgency correctness.
- 43% of correct diagnosis had an incorrect level of urgency (73% of them were underestimated).



### **Before**

About

Sinuses

and nasal congestion.

Sources: Mayo Clinic

Self-treat

Was It Us?

### Stye Sinusitis Also called: Sty About Symptoms Treatments Eyelid inflammation

A red, painful lump near the edge of the evelid that may look like a boil or pimple.

- Usually self-treatable
- Usually self-diagnosable
- Lab tests or imaging rarely required
- Short-term: resolves within days to weeks

Styes are often filled with pus. Sometimes a stye can form on the inner part of the eyelid.

Consult a doctor for medical advice Sources: Mayo Clinic





### Now

### Emergency



Appendicitis begins with pain near the belly button and then moves to the right side. This is often accompanied by nausea, vomiting, poor appetite, fever and chills,

Appendicitis is usually treated with surgery and antibiotics. If untreated, the appendix can rupture and cause an abscess or systemic infection (sepsis).

Consult a doctor for medical advice

Sources: Mayo Clinic and others. Learn more

### People struggle to infer the level of urgency based on search results. In fact, people tend to underestimate urgency across search interfaces.

Implications

• This is problematic as making the **correct diagnosis** is **not as important as** identifying the **correct level of urgency**.

Diagnosis	Urgency Level	Risk
Correct	Under-estimated	Harm well-being
Correct	Over-estimated	Waste medical resources
Incorrect	Correct	None to minimum

 Future work needs to better assist people in deciding the urgency level of their perceived condition.





# Thank you!

### Email me at: jimmy@uq.net.au

