

should assist with bi-directional communication and translation of health care information and instructions as a way to “minimize impediments of care due to language barriers.” Findings will be further used to highlight how future integration of robotic health assistants represents a viable solution in helping geriatric healthcare workers work effectively alongside machines to meet the diverse care needs of older adults in both urban and rural settings.

AGE DIFFERENCES IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DAILY SOCIAL MEDIA USAGE AND AFFECT

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Social media platforms allow people to connect and share content online (e.g., Facebook, Twitter). Although older adults are becoming more frequent users of social media, there continue to be mixed views on whether social media positively or negatively impacts well-being. Past studies have mainly focused on cross-sectional analyses for individual differences. However, both the time spent on social media and one’s affect can fluctuate on a daily basis. Thus, it is important to understand how the relationship between daily social media usage and affect varies within individuals from day to day. The current study adds to the literature by examining whether daily variations in time spent with social media are related to daily positive and negative affect and whether there are age differences in these relationships. The current study used an eight-day daily diary from the Midlife in the United States (MIDUS) Refresher dataset for 782 participants (ages 25-75). Multilevel modeling results revealed that age moderated the relationship between daily time spent on social media and negative affect: for younger adults, on days when they spent more time on social media, they had more negative affect. For older adults, on days when they spent more time on social media, they had less negative affect. Surprisingly, daily time spent on social media was not related to daily positive affect, nor did this relationship differ by age. Implications for future research are discussed with a focus on how social media usage can contribute to daily well-being for adults of different ages.

AGE-COHORT DIFFERENCES IN LONGITUDINAL ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN THE RATE OF INTERNET USE AND MEMORY FUNCTIONING

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Cross-sectional analyses of internet use patterns among older adults find that the rate of internet use is less with greater physical and memory difficulties. It is not clear, however, how age-cohorts differ in their internet use as physical and memory difficulties increase over time. In addition to factors such as increasing accessibility (cost) and social influences, the expansion and cognitive complexity of functions performed by the internet-enabled devices over time could influence internet use patterns. In this study, we investigate how the association between internet use and episodic memory difficulties over time varies between cohorts. We analyzed longitudinal data from the Health and Retirement Study (N = 15,703 in 2002; Aged 51 and older) between years 2002-2016 using mixed effects logistic regression models.

Immediate and delayed word recall measures were used to assess episodic memory. Rate of internet use in the sample increased from 30% in 2002 to 53% in 2016. Rate of internet use among younger age groups was significantly higher in the baseline year. Younger age groups also showed a significantly higher rate of increase in internet use over time. In general, internet use decreased with episodic memory impairment. In addition to these effects, the effect of episodic memory on the rate of increase in internet use over time is lower in younger cohorts. These results indicate that younger cohorts of older adults are more likely to maintain internet use as they continue to age and therefore could better utilize technology for communication, social interactions and health interventions.

DIGITAL HEALTH INFORMATION AS FRIEND OR FOE: THE QUESTION OF (MIS)TRUST AMONG OLDER INTERNET USERS

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Gathering health information is among the major motivations for getting online among older adults who want to be better prepared with knowledge to manage their health and personal care. Prior research also showed significant gender differences in health-related use of the Internet. This research examined the effect of Internet use for health information on (a) mistrust of physician, (b) empowerment, (c) self-care, and (d) worry and/or anxiety. The sample (N=710; Mean= 48.82, SD=16.43) was randomly drawn from a national probability-based online panel. We performed gender-stratified sub-sample analyses of older respondents (age ≥60, N= 194). Hierarchical linear regression analyses showed that there is a negative association between older age and feeling empowered because of using the internet for health information ($\beta = -.23, p < .05$) and a positive association between older age and mistrust of diagnosis and/or treatment of physician ($\beta = .19, p < .05$). Study respondents did not report better self-care as a result of obtaining information from the Internet ($\beta = -.15, p > .05$). Lastly, older adults reported less worry and/or anxiety because of information stumbled upon the Internet that may not be accurate ($\beta = -.25, p < .05$). Sub-sample analyses showed that there are gender differences. Particularly, older men reported greater mistrust ($\beta = .32, p < .05$), and less worry ($\beta = -.44, p \leq .01$) while these associations were not significant among older women. Results call for examination of the synergy of age and gender in perceived benefits of health-related Internet use.

E-MAIL-RELATED PROBLEM-SOLVING BEHAVIORS ACROSS AGE GROUPS: AN ANALYSIS OF LOG FILE DATA

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Email is one of the most common and useful online communication tools. However, older adults tend to have difficulties fully taking advantage of email. Organizing the