

Congratulations to this issue's Joint Count survey winner Dr. Aurore V. Fifi-Mah, from Calgary, Alberta

App, App, And Away!

By Glen Thomson, MD, FRCPC

This issue's Joint Count survey revealed that the majority of respondents are living in the information age with devices that can download apps (Table 1). The iPhone is the single most popular device, with just under half of those surveyed in possession of this Apple technology. Ontario's own Blackberry is the second most popular hand-held device.

Of those surveyed, 86% thought that an arthritis app should include downloadable information about medications, while differential diagnosis (55%), individual disease manifestations (53%), and diagnostic tests (49%) were likewise deemed important to responders (Table 2). This downloadable information would be used mainly at the clinic (85%), in the hospital (57%) and at home (46%), responders felt (Table 3). A few unsafe drivers would download this information in the car (8%): please pull over to the side of the road and stop first! To those

7% who would use this information elsewhere; remember, please turn off all electronic devices prior to the start of a concert.

Two thirds of the respondents currently download apps and 90% would welcome one dedicated exclusively to arthritis, much to the delight of Dr. John Esdaile (see "Arthritis Goes Mobile", page 7).

The final question in the survey was a trick question (Table 4). Only three individuals recognized that "app" is the acronym or abbreviation for all of the items listed. The technical language that each profession speaks can confuse those not initiated. Those who remember the Alan Parsons Project are dating themselves (see "Help Stamp Out Ageism", page 4).

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Table 1. Which of the following devices that can run an app do you own?

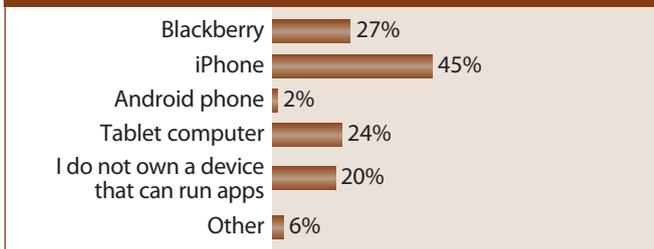


Table 2. What information would you want to see on an arthritis app?

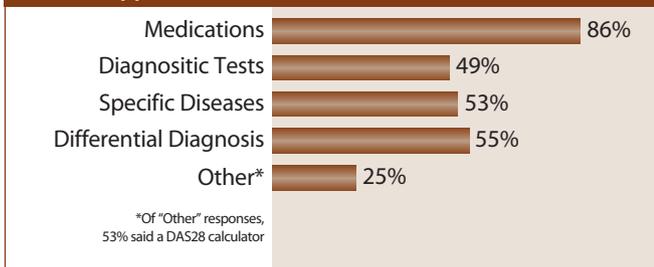


Table 3. Where would you use an app that would be specific to arthritis?

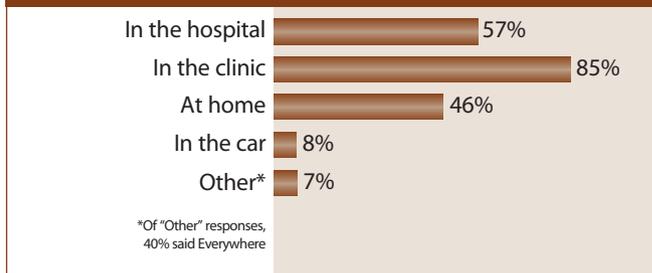
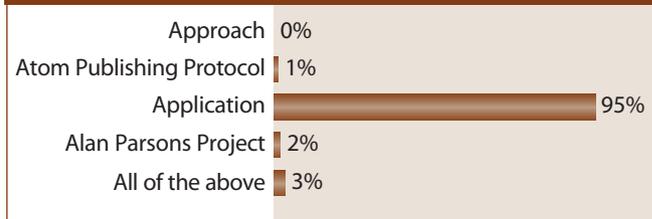


Table 4. App stands for:



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