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Characteristics of Belgian primary healthcare professionals influencing the frequency of using AI and the type of AI tool being used

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30th 1996-2026 GIMBE EVIDENCE FOR HEALTH

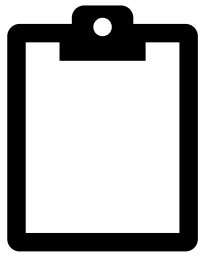
Background

- Initial analysis (2025) of AI use among Belgian healthcare professionals
  - 56.8% already used an AI tool at least once to search for evidence
- Often very generic tools (eg. ChatGPT, Gemini,…)
- Understand the profile of the healthcare professional
  - raise awareness on AI-related risks
  - promote responsible use in the context of EBP

Aims

1) Determine the profile of Belgian healthcare professionals who report using AI
2) Examine whether this profile influences the type of AI tool used

Methods



Survey in 2025

EBP culture

Belgian health professionals in 1st line

Descriptive factors	Outcomes
Language Professional group Gender Degree Years of working experience Age Type of practice, Access to scientific literature (none/insufficient/sufficient) Knowledge of EBP	**Use of AI** - No use - Sporadic use (max 1x/month) - Frequent use (min 1x/week)
See above + Involvement in scientific research Frequency of AI use	**Type of AI tool** - Generic - Specific

Methods

Statistical analysis:

- Ordinal and nominal logistic regression (JMP 19.05)
- Pearson χ^2 for post-hoc analysis

Results

Factors associated with **use of AI** (whole model $\chi^2 = 56.1$, $p = 0.0005$)

- Gender ($\chi^2 = 15.1$, $p = 0.0001$)
- Access to scientific literature ($\chi^2 = 8.1$, $p = 0.0175$)

Post-hoc:

Factor	Results
Gender *Frequent use of AI*	♂ 38.4% ♀ 26.2%
Gender *No use of AI*	38.2% 47.5%
Access to scientific literature *No use of AI*	51.5% 37.2% 41.1%
Access to scientific literature *Sporadic use of AI*	18.9% 23.3% 27.4%

Results

Factors associated with the **type of AI tool** (whole model $\chi^2 = 76.1$, $p < 0.01$)

- Gender ($\chi^2 = 10.7$, $p = 0.0011$)
- Involvement in scientific research ($\chi^2 = 6.4$, $p = 0.04$)
- Professional group ($\chi^2 = 26.8$, $p = 0.0028$)

Post-hoc:

Specific AI tools	**Gender**	Men (21.3%) > Women (13.1%)
	Involvement in scientific research	Occasionally (24.4%) and Regularly (28.6%) > Never (14.5%)
	Professional group	Occupational therapists (40%) and General practitioners (26.1%) > Average 17.6% Physiotherapists (5.2%), Dentists (7.7%), Podiatrists (0%) and Nurses (0%) < Average 17.6%

Limits

- Survey across the entire 1st line healthcare sector in Belgium
  - Response rate for certain professional groups was low
  - Carefull with conclusions and generalisation
- Embedded in an existing survey
  - Not possible to obtain additional depth or clarification on some items in the survey due to its construct
- Fast changing area of research

Conclusions

Gender influenced both the frequency of AI use and the type of AI tool used

use more frequently AI tools

more specific AI tools

Individuals familiar with scientific research more frequently used specific tools

Clear guidance for AI use in EBP needed across the Belgian 1st line healthcare professionals:

- Promote AI literacy and risk awareness
- Improve knowledge and access to specific AI tools, designed for using evidence
- Ensure guidance is accessible across all healthcare professions

Conclusions

Interested in participating in a focus group on this topic?

Interest in focus group on minimal criteria for AI tools for use in EBP