Background: The "infodemic" accompanying the SARS-CoV-2 virus outbreak is a serious global threat, accompanied by an "infodemic" of health misinformation. COVID-19 and Vitamin D Misinformation on YouTube: A Content Analysis

Methods: This is a scoping review of videos on YouTube; a search was conducted on August 1, 2022, using the search terms "COVID-19" and "vitamin D". A total of 77 videos were analyzed, which collectively had 10,225,763 views.

Results: The confusing nature of data and claims surrounding the benefits of vitamin D, particularly in the prevention or cure of COVID-19, can lead to risky health behaviors and even death. Inaccurate or inappropriate messaging regarding vitamin D and COVID-19 may be problematic for a host of reasons, including causing people to take supplements to feel that they are safe from a highly infectious disease that requires vigilant public health behaviors and vaccination.

Conclusion: Inaccurate and misleading information shared on YouTube through mainstream and social media can lead to risky health behaviors and, in some cases, even death. Researchers, practitioners, and policy makers alike should consider the potential consequences of sharing inaccurate information and work to prevent it from harming public health. Instead, more precise and accurate information is more likely to be trusted and adopted.

Keywords: COVID-19, Vitamin D, Infodemic, Misinformation, YouTube, Content Analysis