

Table S1. Underlying clinical evidence for the topics “medication” and “smoking”

Medication		Expected number out of every 10 patients with benefits and side effects in comparison to placebo		
		Treatment	Placebo	
Aspirin 600/650 mg	<i>Benefits</i>	4	2	
	<i>Side effects</i>	1	1	
Paracetamol 600/650 mg + Codein	<i>Benefits</i>	4	2	
	<i>Side effects</i>	3	2	
Ibuprofen 400 mg	<i>Benefits</i>	5	1	
	<i>Side effects</i>	2	2	
Smoking		Expected number out of every 100 men who die of the disease within the next 10 years, in relation to smoking status		
		Smoker	Nonsmoker	Former Smoker
Accidents ^a		1	1	1
Heart disease		7	5	6
Lung cancer		9	0	3
COPD ^b		3	0	2
Stroke		2	1	1
Colon		1	1	1
Prostate cancer		1	1	1

^a Accidents were included to put risks into context, but no questions were asked about them.

^b COPD = chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

Table S2. Example items for the objective and subjective dimensions of interest for the study.

	Medication	Smoking
<i>Objective dimensions</i>		
Gist knowledge	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Which medication has the fewest side effects? 2. Which medication is worst overall? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. From which disease do nonsmokers die most often? 2. On which disease does smoking have the highest impact?
Verbatim knowledge	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many patients experience side effects with Ibuprofen? 2. How many patients experience a benefit of Ibuprofen that they would not have had with a placebo? 3. People who take Ibuprofen have a ?% lower risk of experiencing a side effect compared to people who take Paracetamol 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many smokers will die of heart disease within the next 10 years? 2. How many former smokers will die of lung cancer within the next 10 years, who would not have died had they never smoked? 3. Nonsmokers have a ?% lower risk of dying from stroke within the next 10 years compared to smokers
<i>Subjective dimensions</i>		
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How comprehensible was the information? • Do you think that the information was intuitively accessible? 	
Attractiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How attractive was the representation overall? • How attractive was the arrangement of the information? 	

Numbers Can Be Worth a Thousand Pictures

Figure S1. Examples of items measuring the three levels of graph literacy (i.e., reading the data, reading between the data, and reading beyond the data; Galesic & Garcia-Retamero, in press).

