



Media Coverage of Injury Prevalence in Tennis: a Content Analysis of Selected Online Newspapers

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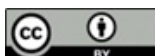
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Abstract

The health benefits of tennis have been well-described. However, like many other sports, playing tennis places athletes at risk of injury with a lot of physical and psychological effects. Thus, research has indicated the need for systematic studies to design useful strategies for the prevention and treatment of tennis-related injuries. Therefore, via a media-based analysis, this study aims to identify the most commonly reported tennis-related injuries and determine the extent of their news coverage in selected Nigerian online newspapers. *Vanguard*, *Punch*, *The Nation*, *The Sun*, and *ThisDay* were selected based on their popularity and online readership. A total of 113 tennis-related news articles were gathered via an internet-based search and subjected to content analysis. The articles were collected from January 2015 until December 2020 using “tennis” and “injury” as keywords. The findings showed that tennis-related injuries occur more often in lower extremities than upper extremities. Also, knee injury, hip injury, and elbow injury were the most commonly reported tennis-related injuries in the selected newspapers. Interestingly, these findings concur with previous clinical research on tennis-related injuries. Further analysis revealed that the selected newspapers paid much attention to tennis-related injuries. However, very few news stories reported official responses to tennis injuries. It was envisaged that this study could provide valuable insights on how to discover more efficient data for tennis injury analysis.

Keywords

Agenda-Setting; Injury; Newspaper; News Content; Tennis; News Coverage; Sports; Injury Data; Tournament



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Отражение в СМИ случаев травматизма в теннисе: контент анализ отдельных интернет-газет

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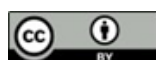
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Аннотация

Польза тенниса для здоровья хорошо описана. Однако, как и многие другие виды спорта, игра в теннис подвергает спортсменов риску травм с множеством физических и психологических последствий. Таким образом, проведённые изыскания указывают на необходимость систематических исследований для разработки эффективных стратегий профилактики и лечения травм, связанных с игрой в теннис. Поэтому, используя анализ СМИ, данное исследование направлено на выявление наиболее часто сообщаемых травм, связанных с теннисом, и определение степени их освещения в отдельных нигерийских интернет-газетах. Газеты Vanguard, Punch, The Nation, The Sun и This-Day были выбраны на основании их популярности и онлайн-аудитории. Всего 113 новостных статей, связанных с теннисом, были собраны с помощью поисковых запросов в Интернете и подвергнуты контент-анализу. Статьи были отобраны с января 2015 года по декабрь 2020 года с использованием ключевых слов "теннис" и "травма". Результаты показали, что травмы, связанные с теннисом, чаще наблюдались на нижних конечностях, чем на верхних. Кроме того, травмы колена, бедра и локтя были самыми распространёнными травмами, связанными с теннисом, о которых сообщалось в отобранных газетах. Интересно, что эти результаты совпадают с предыдущими клиническими исследованиями травм, связанных с теннисом. Дальнейший анализ показал, что выбранные газеты уделяли много внимания травмам, связанным с теннисом. Однако в очень небольшом количестве новостей сообщалось об официальных мерах реагирования на теннисные травмы. Предполагается, что данное исследование может дать ценные идеи о том, как получить более эффективные данные для анализа травм в теннисе.

Ключевые слова

установление повестки дня; травма; газета; содержание новостей; теннис; освещение новостей; спорт; данные о травмах; соревнования



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Introduction

Tennis is one of the most popular sports worldwide (Dines, Bedi, Williams, Dodson, Ellenbecker, Altchek, & Dines, 2015; Kovacs, 2006; Pluim & Windler, 2018) with participation in over 200 countries (ITF, 2021) and more than one billion active fans (Buzz Nigeria, 2018). Millions of dollars are spent on tennis prizes at different levels of tournaments (Pluim, Staal, Windler, & Jayanthi, 2006; Pluim & Windler, 2018). The health benefits of tennis have been well-described (Pluim, Staal, Marks, Miller, & Miley, 2007; Pluim, Groppel, Miley, Crespo, & Turner, 2018). However, injuries often occur in tennis despite being a noncontact sport (Pluim & Windler, 2018). An injury is simply defined as a complaint by players seeking medical attention or receiving treatment (Correia, 2016; Pluim, Fuller, Batt, Chase, Hainline, Miller, ... & Wood, 2009).

Like other sports, playing tennis places players at risk of injury (Fu, Ellenbecker, Renstrom, Windler, & Dines, 2018; Pluim et al., 2006; Pluim & Safran, 2004). Sports injuries often cause disability or absence from work (Dekker, Groothoff, Van Der Sluis, Eisma, & Ten Duis, 2003), which can result in significant socioeconomic concerns (Pluim et al., 2006). Therefore, research indicates the need for systematic studies to better understand tennis-related injuries and design useful strategies to prevent the occurrence of such injuries (Fu et al., 2018; Kaiser, Stock, Benedikt, Ellenbecker, Kastenberger, Schmidle, & Arora, 2021; Pluim et al., 2006). However, the collection of accurate data for tennis injury analysis remains a challenge (Pluim, Loeffen, Clarsen, Bahr, & Verhagen, 2016).

Additionally, robust methods of injury data collection are required to allow a sophisticated analysis of tennis-related injuries (McCurdie, Smith, & Batt, 2017). In this regard, research has shown the importance of mainstream media, particularly newspapers, in providing useful data for injury analysis (Ghaffar, Hyder, & Bishai, 2001; Musa, Hassan, Abdullah, Azmi, & Mat-Rasid, 2019). According to Ghaffar et al. (2001), newspapers cover more injury-related events than other sources. When an injury occurs, such an incident is likely to become newsworthy events and topics of interest amongst the audiences. As such, newspapers serve as a potential source of injury data (Berchialla, Scarinzi, Snidero, Rahim, & Gregori, 2012; Hassan, Musa, Azmi, Abdullah, & Abdullah, 2020).

Previous studies analyzed tennis-related injuries using different designs (Maquirriain & Baglione, 2016; Pluim et al., 2016; Kaiser et al., 2021). However, none of these studies focused on a media-based analysis of tennis-related injuries. Also, there is a paucity of injury data analysis in developing countries (Azubuike & Okojie, 2009; Ghaffar et al., 2001). Therefore, via news content analysis, this study explores news coverage of tennis-related injuries in selected Nigerian online newspapers from January 2015 until December 2020. *Vanguard*, *Punch*, *The Nation*, *The Sun*, and *ThisDay* were selected based on their online readership and popularity. To the best of our knowledge, this study is an initial attempt to investigate injury prevalence



in tennis from the mainstream media perspective. Specifically, this study aims to address the following research questions.

1. What are the most commonly reported tennis-related injuries in the selected online newspapers?
2. To what extent do the newspapers cover tennis-related injuries within the chosen period?

Injury Prevalence in Tennis

Several studies were conducted to investigate tennis-related injuries with different designs and populations (e.g. Gescheit, Cormack, Duffield, Kovalchik, Wood, Omizzolo, & Reid, 2017; Hjelm, Werner, and Renstrom, 2010; Kaiser et al., 2021; Kovacs, Ellenbecker, Kibler, Roetert, & Lubbers, 2014; Kühne, Zettl, & Nast-Kolb, 2004; Lynall, Kerr, Djoko, Pluim, Hainline, & Dompier, 2015; Maquirriain & Baglione, 2016; Pluim et al., 2016; Sell, Hainline, Yorio, and Kovacs, 2014). Most of these studies reported that tennis-related injuries occurred in the lower extremity, followed by the upper extremity and the trunk (e.g. Kaiser et al., 2021; Kühne et al., 2004; Lynall et al., 2015; Maquirriain & Baglione, 2016; Pluim et al., 2006; Pluim et al., 2016; Pluim & Windler, 2018; Sell et al., 2014).

A recent retrospective study investigated a total of 467 acute injuries in tennis (Kaiser et al., 2021). According to the findings, most injuries occurred in the lower extremity, followed by the upper extremity, head, and trunk. Sell et al. (2014) also found that tennis-related “injuries to the lower limbs were over three times more likely than injuries to the trunk” (p. 4). Similarly, a recent retrospective study investigated a total of 467 acute injuries in tennis (Kaiser et al., 2021). According to the findings, most injuries occurred in the lower extremity, followed by the upper extremity, head, and trunk. In essence, previous studies showed that in tennis, lower extremities are more susceptible to injuries. This susceptibility has been attributed to the overuse of lower limb injuries (Pluim et al., 2009).

Additionally, previous studies showed that most acute tennis injuries occur in the lower extremity, while chronic injuries occur in the upper extremity (e.g. Dines et al., 2015; Fu et al., 2018; Kühne et al., 2004; Pluim & Windler, 2018; Verhagen, Clarsen, Capel-Davies, Collins, Derman, de Winter,... & Pluim, 2021). Specifically, the most affected locations include the knee, ankle, shoulder, wrist, back, foot, hip, and low back pain (Ellenbecker, Pluim, Vivier, & Sniteman, 2009; Fu et al., 2018; Hjelm et al., 2021; Kaiser et al., 2021; Kovacs et al., 2014; Pluim & Windler, 2018; Sell et al., 2014). According to Pluim and Windler (2018), the knee is a frequently injured joint in tennis because the location “is typically related to repetitive eccentric overload” (p. 46).

The previous studies have focused on injury analysis at different levels of tennis, including elite professional tennis (Gescheit et al., 2017; Maquirriain & Baglione, 2016; McCurdie et al., 2017; Sell et al., 2014) and junior tennis (Hjelm et al.,



2010; Kovacs et al., 2014; Pluim et al., 2016). Although tennis-related injuries have been reported throughout body regions (Ellenbecker et al., 2009), some studies highlighted that elite professional tennis is more injurious compared with other categories of tennis (Gescheit et al., 2017; Maquirriain & Baglione, 2016). Therefore, more research is needed at all levels of tennis to help health professionals develop injury prevention strategies (Flu et al., 2018).

Moreover, previous studies analyzed tennis-related injuries using different designs such as epidemiological research (e.g. Lynall et al., 2015; Maquirriain & Baglione, 2016), prospective research (e.g. Hjelm et al., 2010; Pluim et al., 2016), and retrospective research (e.g. Kaiser et al., 2021; Kühne et al., 2004). A review of tennis-related injury data “showed relatively consistent results since 2013” (Pluim & Windler, 2018, p. 48). However, tennis injury prevalence may vary depending on data sources and classification systems. None of the previous studies focused on a media-based analysis of tennis-related injuries. To the best of our knowledge, this study is the first attempt to investigate injury prevalence in tennis from the mainstream media perspective. The media can provide health professionals and relevant authorities with valuable injury data to develop preventive measures, rehabilitation programs, and effective post-injury interventions (Hassan et al., 2020; Musa et al., 2019; Sell et al., 2014).

Theoretical Approach

This study adopts Agenda-setting theory to explain how Nigerian newspapers cover tennis-related injuries. The development of this theory is attributed to McCombs and Shaw (1972) who provided the first robust support for the agenda-setting effect. Their study showed that the media tend to make certain issues more salient than others and offer clues about the salient issues in the daily news. By restating these clues day after day, the media successfully communicate the prominence of each issue. Thus, the analysis revealed that how much importance is attached to an issue depends on its salience in the news. As such, the power of media to influence public agenda by focusing on the salience of particular issues is a well-documented phenomenon (Okwuchukwu, 2014; Potter, 2012).

Agenda-setting focuses on the media's ability to provide salience to particular topics while de-emphasizing others in news dissemination (Lim, 2010). Therefore, there is a connection between what the media consider important and its salience in the audience's mindsets. Agenda-setting consists of two levels. The first-level of agenda-setting refers to the media's transfer of salient issues to society, while the second level refers to various elements competing for attention (McCombs & Shaw, 1972; McCombs & Shaw, 1993). This level is described as a process of presenting specific issues frequently and prominently, where large segments of society come to perceive such issues as more serious than others (Coleman, McCombs, Shaw, & Weaver, 2009). In this case, the extent of news coverage of



particular issues, such as tennis-related injuries, determines the perceived importance of those issues in the audience's mindsets.

The second-level of agenda-setting expands the original meaning of agenda-setting. This level focuses on the attributes and characteristics of a particular issue as well as its tone of coverage. In this case, agenda-setting tends to define how people think about the subject, individual, or group being reported. The attributes of second-level agenda-setting consist of two dimensions: substantive and affective dimensions. The substantive dimension is concerned with certain attributes such as ideology and personality of the subject being reported, whereas the affective dimension focuses on the emotional qualities of those attributes where the tone of news reports become positive, negative, or neutral tone (Kim & McCombs, 2007; McCombs & Shaw, 1993).

Additionally, some of the elements associated with agenda-setting include the frequency or extent of news coverage and level of prominence (Folarin, 1998) as well as news sources (Berkowitz, 1992). These elements define issues and determine their future discourse. The media's ability to make certain issues salient in the audience's mindsets depends on these elements. Based on this argument, this study explores the characteristics and prominence accorded to tennis-related injuries in selected Nigerian online newspapers.

Methodology

Design

This study adopts content analysis to investigate the news coverage of tennis-related injuries in five major Nigerian newspapers. Content analysis was chosen due to its ability to explore the characteristics of media messages. This because content analysis provides specific media content that can be analyzed to produce useful information. This method also looks at communication via texts and allows for both quantitative and qualitative analyses (Oleinik, 2011; Shannon, 2005). Content analysis is recognized as a research method based on facts, as opposed to other methods such as discourse analysis (Weaver, 2007). According to Cohen, Manion, and Morrison (2007), "content analysis takes texts and analyses, reduces and interrogates them into summary form through the use of both pre-existing categories and emergent themes to generate or test a theory" (p. 476).

Data Collection

Five national newspapers with the highest readership and online popularity were selected for analysis: *Vanguard*, *Punch*, *The Nation*, *The Sun*, and *ThisDay*. These newspapers are the top daily English language publications in Nigeria (Top Ten Nigerian Newspapers, 2019). News articles focusing on tennis-related inquiries were collected from the respective digital archives of the selected newspapers between January 2015 and September 2020. This time represents a period with various tennis tournaments across the globe, such as Rio Tennis Olympics,



Wimbledon Championships, Australian Open, and US Open. The time frame was chosen to make the data into a manageable size for analysis.

The news articles were collected using “Tennis” and “Injury” as keywords. All news articles identified using this method were included in the content analysis. Only straight news and feature stories were selected for analysis. A total of 113 relevant news articles were generated. Online news articles were considered in this study as readers can attend to online news at any time (Chung, 2008; Hassan & Azmi, 2018). Newspapers are recognized as a more detailed and reliable source of data than traditional datasets (Berchiolla et al., 2012; Ghaffar et al., 2001). Although data gathered from news content is considered qualitative, they can be computed to obtain quantifiable results. According to Hsieh and Shannon (2005), content analysis is mainly characterized as a qualitative versus quantitative research method.

Data Analysis

At the initial stage, each article in the original sample was read for relevance based on headlines and news content. The relevant content of each news article was studied and coded using a hierarchical code system. The hierarchical code system is advantageous as it represents a huge amount of information in a few digits (Hsieh & Shannon, 2005). Subsequently, a database was generated with five categorical variables: Injury locations, extent of news coverage, tournaments, news sources, and official responses. To ensure consistency, inter-coder reliability was employed. The level of inter-coder agreement was determined using Cohen’s kappa test. According to Berchiolla et al. (2012), news content can provide valuable information on the prevalence and dimensions of unintentional injuries.

Moreover, the news articles were cross-checked to avoid double entry of data. Besides, the emerging themes were verified to avoid reproducing media content or revealing dominant themes containing certain tennis-related information. Specifically, the researchers aimed to explore tennis-related injuries and the extent of their coverage throughout the coding process. This method involves subjective judgment, but inter-coder reliability helps to achieve a systematic analysis (Creswell, 2003). The quantified data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and cross-tabulation procedures via the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS Inc., Chicago, Illinois, USA, 20.0).

Findings

The selected newspapers produced different amounts of articles related to tennis injuries within the chosen period of data collection. *Punch* published 34 news articles, *Vanguard* published 22 articles, *The Sun* published 13 articles, *The Nation* published 12 articles while *ThisDay* published 32 articles. Overall, 113 football-related articles were analyzed. News stories about tennis-related injuries are infrequent to allow the collection of a larger sample within the period of data



collection. Nonetheless, newspapers are recognized as an accurate source of injury data (Ghaffar et al., 2001; Musa et al., 2019). The first question aims to identify the most commonly reported tennis-related injury locations in the selected newspapers. This information is depicted in Table 1 as follows.

SN	Injury Locations	F/P	RF	CP
1	Knee	15(13.3)	0.13	13.3
2	Hip	14(12.4)	0.12	25.7
3	Elbow	12(10.6)	0.11	36.3
4	Unidentified	12(10.6)	0.11	46.9
5	Shoulder	10(8.8)	0.09	55.7
6	Back	9(8.0)	0.08	63.7
7	Ankle	8(7.1)	0.07	70.8
8	Thigh	6(5.3)	0.10	76.1
9	Achilles	5(4.4)	0.04	80.5
10	Wrist	5(4.4)	0.04	84.9
11	Hamstring	4(3.5)	0.04	88.4
12	Arm	3(2.7)	0.03	91.1
13	Groin	3(2.7)	0.03	93.8
14	Foot	2(1.8)	0.02	95.6
15	Abdominal	1(0.9)	0.00	96.5
16	Glute	1(0.9)	0.00	97.4
17	Hand	1(0.9)	0.00	98.3
18	Leg	1(0.9)	0.00	99.2
19	Neck	1(0.9)	0.00	100.0
Total		113(100)	1.00	100.0

Table 1: Reported tennis-related injuries

Note: F/P = Frequency/Percent, RF = Relative Frequency, CP = Cumulative Percent

As shown in Table 1, the selected newspapers reported 133 tennis-related injuries across 19 different injury locations. According to the findings, knee injury is the most commonly reported tennis-related injury (13.3%) in the selected newspapers, followed by hip injury (12.4%) and elbow injury (10.6%). These locations amount to 41 injuries, representing 36.3% of the total number of reported injuries. The knee and hip are classified as lower limbs while the elbow belongs to the upper extremity. The findings indicate that tennis-related injuries occur more frequently in the lower extremity than the upper extremity. Besides, 12 injury locations, amounting to 10.6%, were unidentified.



Furthermore, the selected newspapers reported tennis-related injuries with various descriptions, such as career-threatening injury, dispiriting injury, freak injury, long-standing injury, recurring injury, and nagging injury. For instance, on October 1, 2020, ThisDay wrote, “McDonald, 25, suffered a career-threatening injury at last year’s French Open.” Also, injured players were described with several adjectives, such as injury-troubled and injury-plagued. For instance, on May 21, 2019, Vanguard reported that “Injury-troubled Osaka heads to French Open.” Additionally, the extent of news coverage defines the level of importance accorded to the subject being reported” (Folarin, 1998). Thus, the second objective of this study was to determine the extent of news coverage of tennis-related injuries in the selected newspapers. This information is presented in Table 2 as follows.

SN	Variables	Categories	F/P	RF	CP
1	News Coverage	Global	105 (92.9)	0.92	69.0
		Regional	4(3.5)	0.04	55.8
		Local	2(1.8)	0.02	33.6
		National	2(1.8)	0.02	100.0
		Total	113(100)	1.00	100.0
2	Tournaments	Australian Open	17(15.0)	0.20	15.0
		US Open	16(14.2)	0.14	29.2
		French Open	11(9.7)	0.10	38.9
		Unidentified	11(9.7)	0.10	48.6
		Others	58(51.3)	0.51	100.0
		Total	113(100)	1.00	100.0
3	News Sources	News Agency	47(41.6)	0.42	41.6
		Unidentified	41(36.3)	0.36	77.9
		Other Media	10(8.8)	0.09	86.7
		Correspondent	9(8.0)	0.08	94.7
		Social Media	5(4.4)	0.04	99.1
		Website	1(0.9)	0.01	100.0
		Total	113(100)	1.00	100.0
4	Official Responses	Reported	25(22.1)	0.22	22.1
		Not reported	88(77.9)	0.78	100.0
Total			113(100)	1.00	100.0

Table 2: Coverage of tennis-related injuries

Note: F/P = Frequency/Percent, RF = Relative Frequency, CP = Cumulative Percent

As shown in Table 2, the selected newspapers covered more global news (92.9%) on tennis-related injuries than regional (3.5%), local (1.8%), or national



(1.8%). This outcome suggests that the selected newspapers accorded more prominence to global news on tennis-related injuries than regional, local, or national news. This is because, as postulated by Agenda-setting theory, the extent of news coverage defines the perceived prominence of the subject being reported (Coleman et al., 2009; Kim & McCombs, 2007). Tennis events, especially international tournaments, represent a crucial aspect of sports activities. Table 2 also shows that the Australian Open, US Open, and French Open were the most frequently reported tennis events within the chosen period. These events were reported 44 times, which represents 38.9% of the total number of reported tournaments in the context of tennis-related injuries.

Additionally, most of the news stories about tennis injuries were reported from news agencies (41.6%), followed by other mainstream media (8.8%) and correspondent reports (8.0%). Very few stories were reported from social media (4.4%) and websites (0.9%). This outcome shows that the selected newspapers relied on news agencies to report tennis-related injuries. Besides, 41 news sources, amounting to 36.3% of the overall news sources, were unidentified. Also, official responses to injuries were reported in only 25 incidents. This situation may affect the perceived credibility of tennis-related news. This is because useful injury-related information could be obtained from official responses such as sports medical personnel or tournament organizers.

Discussion

The findings of this study revealed that knee, hip, and elbow were the most commonly reported tennis-related injuries in the selected newspapers. According to the findings, lower limbs were more frequently affected compared with upper limbs. Interestingly, these findings concur with many prospective, retrospective, and epidemiological studies on tennis-related injuries (e.g. Kaiser et al., 2021; Kühne et al., 2004; Lynall et al., 2015; Maquirriain & Baglione, 2016; Pluim et al., 2006; Pluim et al., 2016; Pluim & Windler, 2018; Sell et al., 2014). Based on the supposition of Agenda-setting theory (McCombs & Shaw, 1972), this outcome could provide the public, especially health professionals, tennis officials, and the players, with a signal about the most common injury locations in tennis through the transfer of salience.

Precisely, this study found that knee injury is the most commonly reported injury in the selected newspapers. According to Pluim and Windler (2018), knee injury is common as the location is subjected to repetitive unusual overload. Unlike other sports such as soccer, tennis involves running and skating, where loading mostly affects the lower extremities (Verhagen et al., 2021). Additionally, tennis does not have a specific predetermined duration, and therefore matches often last several hours with many shorts and bursts of energy (Dines et al., 2015; Kovacs, 2006). Despite this unique profile, many tennis-related injuries are common to other sports (Musa et al., 2019; Pluim & Safran, 2004).



Moreover, this study found that the selected newspapers reported more global news on tennis injuries than regional, local, or national news. These findings demonstrate the perceived importance accorded to tennis-related injuries in the selected newspapers. This is because, based on the assumption of Agenda-Setting theory, the extent of news coverage is considered crucial in defining the level of prominence accorded to the subject being reported (Coleman et al., 2009; Folarin, 1998). Considering this assumption, tennis-related injuries receive tremendous media attention in Nigeria. However, the selected newspapers tend to rely on news agencies, such as Agence France-Presse (AFP), News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), and Reuters, as well as other conventional media, such as British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and Cable News Network (CNN, for information on tennis-related injuries.

Further analysis revealed that very few news stories reported official responses to tennis-related injuries. To promote the richness of media-based information on tennis injuries, news sources must be diversified. This is because reporting sources define issues and determine their perceived accuracy (Berkowitz, 1992). The findings also suggest most tennis-related injuries were sustained during tournaments rather than training. Sports-related injuries often have physical and psychosocial impacts on athletes (Dekker et al., 2003), which may cause considerable socioeconomic concerns (Pluim et al., 2006). In particular, the Nigerian government spends a huge amount of money on the prevention and treatment of sports-related injuries (Azubuike & Okojie, 2009). Therefore, studies of this nature are expected to supplement the government's efforts.

Conclusion

This study focused on the coverage of tennis-related injuries in selected Nigerian online newspapers. According to the findings, tennis injuries occur more frequently in lower limbs compared to upper limbs. Additionally, the selected newspapers accorded great prominence to tennis-related injuries. This prominence, as presumed based on Agenda-setting theory, can provide signals about the most common injury locations in tennis. The findings of this study signify the importance of media sources in analyzing tennis-related injuries. The study has proven that newspapers could be a robust alternative to prospective or clinical sources for tennis injury data. Accessibility, permanency, and timeliness make online newspapers a reliable source for tennis-related injuries.

This study advances our understanding of how newspapers can provide useful data for tennis injury analysis. To the best of our knowledge, this study is the first media-based analysis of tennis-related injuries. The findings of this research are expected to provide the government, health professionals, relevant authorities, and athletes with valuable insights on how to discover a more systematic approach to tennis injury prevention and management. This is because, through proper documentation and systematic analysis, studies of this nature could increase awareness



and provide valuable information for tennis injury prevention, management, and rehabilitation programs.

This study is limited to tennis-related injuries in five Nigerian online newspapers with a small number of tennis-related injuries. News stories about tennis injuries were infrequent within the period of data collection (January 2015–December 2020). This situation restrains the collection of a relatively larger sample of news articles within the period of data collection. Therefore, further research may consider a larger sample of newspapers and a more extended period of data collection. Besides, only online newspapers were considered while other forms of media, such as blogs and social media, were viewed as too subjective for this study. Nevertheless, these forms of media could be useful alternative sources for data in future research.

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