# Google Addresses Criticism of 'AI Overviews' Amid Unusual Responses



**Google Defends AI Overviews Amid Bizarre Responses**

Recently, Google’s ‘AI Overviews’ feature has faced criticism after providing unusual and potentially harmful advice. This AI tool, designed to supplement traditional search results by generating answers from internet data, has suggested users eat rocks for health benefits, make pizzas with glue, and reiterated the incorrect claim that Barack Obama is Muslim.

Some of these responses appear to have originated from jokes or satirical content online. For instance, the recommendation to eat rocks can be traced back to a satirical article, while the glue and pizza suggestion likely stemmed from a Reddit joke.

Google representatives acknowledged these issues but emphasized they are rare instances. They assured that AI Overviews predominantly deliver high-quality information and noted that they’ve imposed strict guidelines and extensive testing to minimize such errors. The company also mentioned efforts to refine and enhance the system to better deliver factual information.

The problem appears to stem partly from the nature of large language models, which sometimes produce convincing yet inaccurate responses due to their reliance on linguistic patterns rather than factual data. Google’s parent company, Alphabet, derives significant revenue from search and associated advertising, making the reliability of their search platform crucial.

CEO Sundar Pichai has stressed the importance of maintaining trust, especially given the rigorous standards set by users for accurate search results. At an event, he underscored the commitment to getting critical information right through continuous improvement and consumer feedback.

Recent issues with Google’s AI tools echo past controversies, including mischaracterizing ethnicities and genders in generated images. This has led Google to halt certain features while reworking them to address inaccuracies.