BE VIGILANT!

The Internet is an inexhaustible source of health and medical information. This document provides some tools to guide you in your search for information that is reliable, useful for your health, and allows you to make informed choices.

ALWAYS HAVE THE INFORMATION VALIDATED BY A DOCTOR.

What is the Health On the Net Foundation?
The Health On the Net Foundation (HON) is a non-governmental organization with the objective of promoting the development and application of new information technologies, notably in the medical and health domains.
The Foundation has consultative status with the World Health Organization (WHO).

DO YOU HAVE A COMMENT OR A SUGGESTION?
REACH US AT

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WWW.HON.CH

STAMP OF THE DOCTOR

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www.ufml-asso.org
ASK YOUR DOCTOR FOR ADVICE

Do not buy drugs over the Internet and do not base your medical decisions solely on information found on the Internet. Before changing your strategy for care, talk to your doctor.

Visiting a website or obtaining information online does not replace a doctor’s visit.

GIVE PRIORITY TO THE WEBSITES OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS AND LEARNED SOCIETIES

For example, websites belonging to hospitals, universities and government agencies. Or those that have obtained HONcode certification.

http://www.healthday.com/
http://www.webmd.com/
https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/
https://labtestsonline.org/
http://www.heart.org/
http://www.diabetes.org/

LOOK FOR THE HONCODE SEAL

When the seal is present on a health or medical website, this means that it meets specific standards for ethics and transparency.

THE HONCODE, A CODE OF CONDUCT ESTABLISHED BY THE FOUNDATION, IS ADAPTED TO HEALTH AND MEDICAL SITES.

Each year HON’s teams assess sites’ respect for the 8 principles detailed below and certify those health and medical sites that meet the criteria. The sites voluntarily seek certification and commit to complying with the HONcode principles.

THE 8 HONCODE PRINCIPLES:

1. AUTHORITATIVE
   Who authored the content?

2. COMPLEMENTARITY
   What is the site’s mission? Who is its audience?

3. PRIVACY
   How is data treated?

4. ATTRIBUTION
   What are the sources of the content? How old is the information?

5. JUSTIFIABILITY
   Is all information presented equally?

6. TRANSPARENCY
   Is the contact information correct and complete?

7. FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE
   How is the site paid for? Have the authors reported any conflicts of interest?

8. ADVERTISING POLICY
   Are ads clearly identifiable?