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Moving beyond Doctor Google: Finding and Evaluating Quality Health Information Online

Beth Transue

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Moving Beyond Doctor Google

Beth M. Transue, Messiah University Librarian

Before We Begin...

I am a medical librarian. I can help connect a patron with medical information. I do NOT give medical advice.

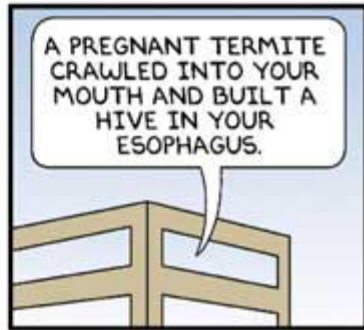
It is always best to talk to your healthcare provider about medical concerns and what you find online. Even if information is credible, it might not be a good option for your specific health situation.





DILBERT[®]

BY
SCOTT ADAMS



Mayo
Fox

WebMD

MIT
Hopkins centers

Michael S. Stanford
Medical Safari
Google

ScienceDaily

Let's Start With..... Google!



USE KEYWORDS NOT
ENTIRE SENTENCES
OR QUESTIONS



USE TOOL TO FILTER
FOR DATE



USE ADVANCED
SEARCH FOR MORE
LIMITS



GOOGLE SCHOLAR

The best place to hide a dead body
is page 2 of **Google** search results.

What criteria
should we use?

Start with what
you know!

Evaluating
Health
Information

Evaluation Criteria

- Source/Author
- Date – up to date. General rule is 5 years.
- Bias
- Can You Understand the Information?
- Talk to your healthcare provider

Let's Evaluate Four Websites

- Benefits of Lavender Oil
- Essential Oil
- Anxiolytic Effect of Essential Oils
- Lavender

Recommended Websites

- You already know some!
- National Institutes of Health
- Mayo Clinic
- Cleveland Clinic
- Disease-specific organizations like American Diabetes Association

What About WebMD?

- WebMD is a for-profit business. Lots of advertisements!
- Good information..... BUT
- Conflict of Interest



My Favorite Health Website

MedlinePlus

Wrapping Up.... Let's Compare


- Glucosamine for knee arthritis
 - MedlinePlus
 - [WebMD](#)
 - Google Search



Beth Transue

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thankful for my doctor,  who respects my need for detailed medical information and doesn't brush me off when I bring medical literature to her attention when discussing questions. Had a long involved discussion with her today about a health concern and she really listened and engaged in dialog with me as we worked together to reach a decision about some treatment options. She is awesome!