



## Don't rely on Wikipedia alone for medical answers



- EMAIL THIS ARTICLE
- PRINT THIS ARTICLE
- DIGG THIS!
- SAVE TO DELICIOUS
- POST TO FACEBOOK

Story Published: May 7, 2009 at 4:32 PM PDT  
 Story Updated: May 7, 2009 at 6:00 PM PDT

By Good Housekeeping  
[Watch the story](#)

We all know there's an staggering amount of medical information on the Web. The problem is much of it is bogus, designed to sell you something or just unreliable.

The editors at Good Housekeeping found that in some cases you could harm your health by relying on medical information from [Wikipedia](#).

When you go online for prescription drug information, Wikipedia is often the first link that pops up. It's a free encyclopedia with content written and edited by users. But on Wikipedia, there could be serious omissions.

Pharmacists from Nova Southeastern University looked up answers to 80 drug-related questions on Wikipedia and compared them to [Medscape](#) drug reference, a free and professional site where changes are thoroughly reviewed.

"And what they found was that while Wikipedia wasn't wrong on anything, they didn't get answers to 60 percent of their questions. On Medscape it was only 17 and a half percent," said Toni Hope, health director of the Good Housekeeping Research Institute.

How do you know if you're on a dependable medical Web site?

"In order for a person to know a really good Web site, one of things I always tell them to look for is the HONcode, and you can find that at the bottom of the Web site. You can really usually be pretty sure the information is good there," said Pat Regenberg, medical librarian at Atlantic Health Services.

For reliable drug coverage, go to [Medlineplus.gov](#). The site is run by the National Institute of Health and the National Library of Medicine.

Bottom line: if you use the the Internet for drug information, Wikipedia should not be the only site you visit.

Be aware that negative side effects may be missing on Wikipedia. A consumer watchdog group found that people with access to drug companies' computers have deleted negative information about some products. While information was quickly restored, it's still dangerous if the page has missing information.

### Web Hosting Hints

Web Hosting Hints. learn how to get domain name and cheap web hosting

### Medical Equipment Repair

Servicing MD's, Vets, Hospitals. Customized Evaluation Available Now!

### Weather & Traffic



Current Temp  
**55 °F**

#### Overcast

- ▶ Today's forecast
- ▶ 7 day planner
- ▶ Weather blog
- ▶ Traffic incident reports
- ▶ Live traffic cams
- ▶ Share your photos and videos

**New:** Upload directly from your mobile device.  
[Learn how](#)

#### On Demand



**Watch ABC Shows**  
 Catch up with your favorite shows online.

#### DISH Network Info

- [KOMO on Twitter](#)
- [Live Police & Fire Scanner](#)
- [Listen Live - KOMO Newsradio](#)
- [Audio Center - KOMO Newsradio](#)
- [Video on Demand](#)

#### DtvAnswers

Resources and info you need to prepare for the switch to DTV.  
[Converter box details](#)  
[Get converter box coupons](#)  
[DTV Transition Guide](#)  
[Assistance centers](#)  
[DTV reception maps](#)

#### Stay Connected

- [News Alerts](#)
- [Mobile News](#)
- [RSS Feeds](#)

#### YouNews

#### Airbags

Anbieterliste aller Shops mit Tests & Preisen für Airbags!  
[Preisvergleich.de/Airbags](#)

Ads by Google



- [Cop finds dead motorcyclist on I-5 exit ramp](#)
- [Once booming Bend, Ore., goes bust](#)
- [Swine flu turns deadly in Washington state](#)
- [Charges filed after Little League brouhaha](#)
- [Craigslist ad leads to arrests of 2 men](#)
- [Man burned over 55 percent of body](#)
- [Man killed when tractor drives over him](#)
- [Mystery deepens over Seattle teachers' status](#)
- [Infant dies after pacifier taped to his mouth](#)
- [Family: Swine flu didn't cause Snohomish Co. man's death](#)

### Marketplace

- [Jobs](#)
- [Real Estate](#)
- [Travel Deals](#)
- [Vacation Homes](#)

**[Speed Bumps](#)**

SNG Company Traffic and Roadway Safety Products  
[www.sng.co.yu](http://www.sng.co.yu)

**[Speed Monitoring Device](#)**

Monitoring device and speed display Travel data recording, auto LED  
[www.novatech.com.hk](http://www.novatech.com.hk)

**[LED Traffic Light-BBE LED](#)**

LED Traffic Signal, Street Light Support OEM Project.  
Contact Now!  
[www.bbeLED.com](http://www.bbeLED.com)

Ads by Google




**Seattle Area Jobs**

- [Groomer's Assistant](#)
- [Software Developer](#)
- [Appointment Setter - Sales](#)
- [Preschool Teacher](#)
- [Insurance Sales Agent](#)
- [Electrical Engineer](#)

[More Jobs](#)

**Employers & Recruiters**

 Post your job for FREE across hundreds of sites

[Find out more](#)

Powered by [realtmatch](#)



fisher interactive network

140 Fourth Ave. North, Suite 370, Seattle, WA 98109

[Contact Us](#) | [Advertise with Us](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Public Filing Report](#) | [DTV Report](#) | [ABC](#)  
Copyright © 2008 Fisher Communications, Inc.

Powered by Broadcast Interactive Media.