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Date: 10/25/2006

Since anyone can set up a website, it is important to carefully evaluate the site for quality prior to using it as a reference. When using the Internet as a medical reference, it is particularly important to make certain the information is current and accurate.

Find an Internet website that pertains to the topic you are presenting and evaluate it using the following criteria. Explain your answers.

WEB SITE EVALUATION ASSIGNMENT		
1. WEB Site URL		http://www.badgut.com/
2. Describe the website	10 pt	The website of Canadian Society of Intestinal Research (CSIR) which is a registered Canadian charitable organization. "CSIR is dedicated to increasing public awareness, providing patient educational materials, and funding medical research regarding a broad range of gastrointestinal diseases and disorders."
3. How does the site relate to your topic?	7 pt	Our topic is GI bleeding c/b prednisone. This site covers a wide range of intestinal ailments including ulcer disease which is what we have focused on since it is such a big problem esp in elderly people taking NSAIDs and prophylactic ASA on a regular basis.
Credibility		
4. Who is the author?	2 pt	* Copyright © 2002-2006. Canadian Society Of Intestinal Research. All rights reserved. * They list their executive director and board of directors along with a short bio covering each person. The board is represented by a wide range of business and health care people, however, there are no nurses on it.
5. What credentials does the author have that make him/her qualified to speak to the subject matter?	7 pt	Although they do not list who authors specific sections of the website, the board of directors has a wide range of interests and expertise covering GI issues. CSIR is nationally recognized as Canada's gastrointestinal disease and disorder info source. Their mission is to provide information support for GI problems.
6. Who sponsors the site? Is there advertising on the site? Does this create a conflict of interest? Why or why not?	10 pt	Canadian Society of Intestinal Research (CSIR). There is no advertising on the site except by the CSIR.
Content		
7. Who is the target audience? How do you know?	7 pt	This web site is designed for anyone who is experiencing GI problems or for anyone who knows someone who is. It is attractive, easy to use, very interactive and lists many ways to get information, get help, and get involved. It best serves Canadians when it lists support groups, and talks about specific problems and issues regarding medications and healthcare system issues. However it provides an abundance of info in layperson friendly language right in the website that is useful to all English speakers.

8. What references were used in building the site? Are they identified and appropriate?	7 pt	This is interesting. I could not find any references.... I did find their "legal policy": "The articles contained on www.badgut.com are in no way intended to replace the knowledge or diagnosis of your doctor. We advise seeking a physician or medical professional whenever a health problem arises requiring an expert's care. Our intention is to provide you with a wide range of materials, and to focus on overall treatment and management issues or strategies."
9. How does the material in this site compare with the information you have found in other sources? Is it accurate?	10 pt	It is accurate, the pictures and diagrams add to the written information and all are easy to understand. The reader does not need a medical dictionary in hand to comprehend the info.
10. Are there links to other web sites? Describe.	5 pt	The website offers a variety of links that delve deeper into the GI diseases or offer more info that may be helpful to the consumer. For instance, they link to a site that reviews restaurants that are sensitive to special dietary needs, sites of "useful information" and book review sites.
11. Is the content easily readable? Explain.	5 pt	See #9
Functions of the Website		
12. How did you find the site? Was it easily accessible?	5 pt	Google.com using key words "ulcer disease" and "gastrointestinal bleed". I went to it because I liked the name (badgut.com)
13. How easy is it to navigate through the site?	5 pt	The site is very easy to use and it has never sent me on a fishing expedition or kicked me out. It does what it says it will do and is very user friendly. The one thing that I miss is the "printer friendly" choice that many sites provide. To print, the user needs to do screen dumps.
14. When was the site last updated?	5 pt	According to their info page, it is continually being updated. There is not a date on each article, so it is not possible to access that info separately.
Impact of Site		
15. Explain why the site is appropriate for the professional nurse or the patient.	15 pt	<p>I think this site is great for someone wanting more information regarding a GI disorder or disease. It is somewhat limiting because it is a Canadian site and their healthcare delivery system is very different from ours here in the U.S. However, since it mentions support groups for various GI ailments, it could alert the US consumer to the fact that there are probably support groups in their city or town also. The description of the diseases, the dietary info and research information crosses international borders nicely.</p> <p>As a nurse I would recommend it with the limitations as mentioned above. I think that they should list their references and perhaps I am just not able to find them because they are so well put together in every other way.</p>