

Purpose

The purpose of our forum is to foster the sharing of knowledge relating to eosinophilic disorders and other severe food intolerances and allergies.

Authority

Our forum is moderated on a weekly basis. The moderators and administrators are volunteers. They use the following aliases: ausEE (Sarah) and Mercedes. The moderators and forum members are not regarded as health professionals.

Complementarity

The information provided on this forum is designed to support, not replace, the direct relationship between patients and health professionals.

Privacy

Please remember that any information you share on our forums becomes public, so you should be careful about what you disclose. Whilst our forums are accessible to "members only", it should still be considered that anything you publish is in a public area. Whilst you may elect to join our forums/sign up as a member under a profile name that is not your 'real name', please be aware that this cannot give you a guarantee of anonymity.

We remind you that any message can be read, used, reproduced and cited by all.

You do not have the option to delete your messages. However, under exceptional circumstances, you can contact the moderators to do so by email to admin@ausee.org. The references you provide for your posts cannot be deleted. Thus, please take care regarding the information that you post.

Duty of Care

If it is suspected that a child has been abused or neglected, or a disclosure has been made, the administrator, moderators or volunteers of ausEE Inc. will exercise a duty of care to protect children and report suspicion of child abuse and neglect as required by the current children's protection legislation.

Messages

The moderators and members should conduct themselves at all times with respect and honesty.

By using our forums, you agree to post information that is true and correct to the best of your knowledge and is of your personal experience. If the information you post is not personal experience, we request you to provide sources (references, links, etc.) whenever it is relevant and possible.

You are not allowed to post advertisements, whether in the form of text links or banners, for example.

The moderators reserve the right to delete any messages deemed inappropriate without notifying the author. In cases of abuse, the moderators reserve the right to ban a member of the forum. In both instances, an explanation will be provided if user requests.

Rules and Suggestions

Our forum pages are intended to be a forum where people can freely express their ideas and thoughts and ask for others opinions on certain topics as they relate to themselves. It is not a medical forum, please seek the advice of your physician before trying anything suggested by a member.

It's also a place where people can meet others in similar circumstances and form friendships.

The following rules and suggestions are based on common-sense and if adhered to, should keep things peaceful and ensure a better experience for all.

I. Basic Rules

By posting in our forum users must agree to the following common-sense rules:

- No Impersonation – We have zero tolerance for anyone who deliberately or maliciously posts something while pretending to be someone else. This will result in automatic and permanent banishment.
- No Spam/Advertising – Posting of pyramid schemes, chain letters or advertisements for commercial products or services is prohibited. Additionally, posting of anything illegal will be subject to deletion and permanent banishment.
- No Offensive Posts/Flaming – Personal attacks (i.e., abuse in the form of name calling/insults, harassment or defamation, etc.), or other extreme or inappropriate comments are not acceptable. Additionally, discriminatory posts (i.e., things of a sexual, sexist, racist, religious or political nature) are not tolerated.
- No Trolls – People who generate controversial or otherwise useless topics in an effort to provoke others are simply wasting time and are not tolerated. If you suspect someone is a troll, do not respond to them. Instead, report them to our Site Administrators by email to admin@ausee.org.
- Respect the Site Administrators – if they take any action, please respect their decisions and adhere to their instructions/judgment. Also, please remember show respect to your fellow members. Many members are going through tough times and need support not criticism. If we deem anything offensive, we will take appropriate action.

II. Reporting Offenses

We do our best to monitor the forum. Even so, it's possible that members may come across a potential problem/issue before we do. In these cases, we ask them to please report the offenses by notifying Mercedes (email: support@ausee.org) or Sarah (email: admin@ausee.org)

III. Helpful Suggestions

The following, while not strict rules and certainly things that are open to interpretation, are suggested "best practices" for posting. Following these recommendations should make your forum experience more beneficial:

- Treat Each Other With Respect – We understand that some topics can become the centre of heated debates. We also understand that not everyone gets along. Nevertheless, treat each other with respect.
- Stay on Topic – We understand that threads can "mutate" into something quite different than originally intended. Please try to avoid this. Start new threads rather than change the direction of the thread.

Netiquette Tips

1. Read the forum rules and guidelines before posting for the first time.
2. Search the other posts to see if your topic is already covered.
3. Use a meaningful title for your thread.
4. Do not use a forum to promote your product, service or business.
5. Be civil. Personal differences should be handled through email or IM and not through posts displayed to everyone.
6. Stay on topic.
7. Ignore spammers, do not respond to them through the board, please report them to us at admin@ausee.org
8. Do not submit a post that requires readers to download a large attachment. Either explain the attachment or, better yet, provide a link to the information.
9. Use plain text over HTML if you want your post to be readable by everyone.
10. In order to be understood by most people, use correct spelling, grammar and avoid slang unless you know the word or phrase will be understood by other members.
11. Do not double post (post the same message twice in one thread) or cross post (place the same message across several forums).
12. Act in a give and take manner; help others as often as or more than you ask for help.
13. Do not use all caps or SHOUT in your posts.
14. When replying to a post, do not quote more from the previous post than you have to.
15. Do not post new problems on someone else's thread and interrupt a topic of discussion.
16. Do not use someone else's thread for a private conversation.
17. Most forums prohibit warez, cracks or illegal downloading of software and similar topics.
18. Watch your sense of humour, posts may be read by people from a variety of backgrounds and ages.
19. Do not use a huge and annoying signature, a modest signature is fine, moderators may remove large ones anyway.
20. Do not post any information that you want private. Posts should not contain personal, identifiable information or content embarrassing to others.
21. Do not post content that violates a copyright.
22. Do not post "empty" or useless responses, such as just "lol" or "cool." Only post responses when you have something to contribute.
23. Write concisely and do not ramble.
24. Do not use words like "urgent" or "important" in your subject line, be patient.
25. Do not chastise newbies.

Netiquette Tips sourced from: <http://forum-services-review.toptenreviews.com/25-forum-posting-etiquette-tips.html>

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