
   Wikipedia is the first webpage to appear when searching for pica in the Google search engine. This website provides an overview of the diagnostic criteria for pica, but references the DSM-IV for this criteria. The website breaks down pica into subtypes, which falls under signs and symptoms, provides information about complications and differential diagnosis, potential causes, treatment, epidemiology, and history. Many hyperlinks have been inserted to connect pica to specific subtypes or explanations of certain words on the page. There are also links to external references.

   The page is easy to navigate, but the content validity is questionable. Only verified users can update the page; still, this cannot be guaranteed with 100% accuracy. Anybody can access Wikipedia and therefore the page is written for the masses. Wikipedia can be translated to different languages and therefore the quality could be lost in translation. I would recommend using this website to gather quick information about the disorder, but encourage them to seek elsewhere for more in-depth exploration.


   The Nemours Foundation focuses specifically on children and pica, and the webpage that the Google search engine connects to is directed toward parents. There is an ability to either read the information or listen to it using ReadSpeaker. There is a quick index at the top and the page is uniform and easy to follow. The first page provides a brief overview of pica and then lists potential substances. This page links children with developmental disabilities, such as autism or intellectual disabilities, to the disorder. After clicking on the second page, the viewer can see signs of pica and an explanation of why this would happen. A third page concludes with when to call the doctor and tips for at-home medical remedies.

   The webpage is extremely user friendly and is geared toward parents. There are some helpful diagrams and content is organized in lists. This is useful for any parent wanting to know the basics of pica. The website is part of the Nemours Foundation, which is a nonprofit organization devoted to improving the health of children. The organization itself is run by pediatricians, so the information on the website could be viewed as accurate by association. I would caution parents to follow the directions on the third page without consulting a doctor first.


   WebMD begins with an index of the subjects covered and then quotes relevant statistics for pica. The first page discusses the diagnosis and treatment of pica, including complications that arise. Before the second page loads, a pop up replaces the screen where one must “X” out
the content. The second page then provides a brief overview of the outlook for people with pica and discusses the prevention of the disorder.

In regards to validity, the team is comprised of people in medicine, journalism, health communication, and content creation working together to bring the “best health information possible”. The information presented is a summary at best, with very little attention paid to detail and expansion of the above topics. The website is meant for the general public and references the Handbook for Clinical Child Psychology for a reliable reference throughout the information. While the information is useful, I would hesitate to explore this website because all of this information and more can be found elsewhere.


This website is a streamlined, brief overview of the major considerations regarding pica. The disorder is defined, and then causes, symptoms, exams and tests, treatment, outlook, possible complications, when to contact a medical professional, and prevention is just as briefly covered. Hyperlinks are included in the complications section, which allows the content about these to expand on a different page.

Anybody can access this webpage, and since it is amongst the first five webpages that stem on Google, the intended audience is anyone who can read English print. While the information is compact, the style in which it is written is succinct and useful. The content has been written by a forensic psychiatrist and has been reviewed by a doctor of the editorial team at A.D.A.M approximately one year ago. This page would be useful to someone that needs an introductory look into pica basics.


This website explores the disorder of pica in relation to pregnancy. This is a subcategory under the topic “pregnancy and wellness”, and the first content to appear on the page is a picture of cigarette ashes. The site begins with a brief description of what pica is and how it relates to pregnancy, what causes this, common cravings, risks to the baby, and managing pica urges. The article cites a statistic regarding pregnant women who have temporary pica. The website is a single page that scrolls down with large font and ends with suggestions for how to curb the cravings. The website was last updated a little over a year ago.

Obviously the audience with which this article is geared toward is pregnant women who may or may not be experiencing pica urges. The information has been pulled from three different sites: Mayo Clinic, American Dietetic Association, and American Academy of Family Physicians. Therefore, the information has been taken from a secondary source and loses credibility. The information could be useful for a pregnant woman who just wanted to check which substances qualify as pica, but I would recommend that she visits either those other three websites, or better yet, her physician.