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## Vasculitis

### Vasculitis Foundation

<http://www.vasculitisfoundation.org/>

The Vasculitis Foundation hosts a comprehensive website containing information about a variety of vasculitic disorders. Patient brochures can be downloaded free of charge. Descriptions of various tests and procedures, including plasmapheresis and the pathergy test, are written in lay language. The research section lists active studies seeking participants. A listing of support groups includes not only ones in the United States (by region) but also international support groups.

### The Johns Hopkins Vasculitis Center

<http://vasculitis.med.jhu.edu/>

This website provides detailed descriptions of vasculitic diseases written in lay language. Information about treatment options is also given. These descriptive pages are supported by numerous high-quality images. A comprehensive frequently-asked-questions page provides answers to all the questions the newly diagnosed patient is likely to ask.

### The European Vasculitis Study Group

<http://www.vasculitis.org/>

The website of the European Vasculitis Study Group lists all the active and completed trials in which they are involved. The site contains a number of useful links, including one to an extensive vasculitis assessment training manual. European League Against Rheumatism guidelines can be accessed directly.

## Other Diseases

### University of North Carolina Kidney Center

<http://www.unckidneycenter.org/index.html>

Hosted by the University of North Carolina, the Kidney Health Library contains general information, including that aimed at caregivers, financial resources, nutritional information, patients' stories, and a drug library. Emphasis is also given to genetic diseases. The site also hosts podcasts to answer frequently asked questions from patients. If they would rather read the transcripts, these can be downloaded from the site. Other pages are aimed at health care professionals, and there are links to many nephrology-related sites, such as the excellent Atlas of Diseases of the Kidney (<http://kidneyatlas.org/>), and the nephropathology tutorials from the University of North Carolina nephropathology laboratory (<http://www.uncnephropathology.org/Teaching/teaching.html>).

### DermAtlas

<http://dermatlas.med.jhmi.edu/derm/>

With over 10,000 images on file, this is one of the largest medical image collections on the Internet. Each image is accompanied by a brief description and additional comments. Related images are also listed to give the reader a comprehensive pictorial overview of whatever condition he might

be interested in. A homunculus provides easy access by region. A differential diagnosis tool still in development allows the user to search for potential confounders by morphology, color, pattern, organization, and location. You may also contribute your own images by uploading them directly onto their site. Quizzes and continuing medical education credits are available.

### **The Internet Pathology Laboratory for Medical Education**

<http://library.med.utah.edu/WebPath/webpath.html#MENU>

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One of the great assets of the Internet is the provision of extensive image collections which is not possible in a traditional textbook due to space limitation. This site, hosted by the University of Utah, is another one of these gargantuan image sites. It is exceptionally well organized, with images classified into organ systems, each of which is given a brief description. Tutorials and examinations are provided, as are links to self-assessment modules hosted by the College of American Pathologists. The frequently updated contents also include a case of the week. Staining techniques and procedural manuals are also provided for pathology trainees. As part of their extended AIDS coverage, a textbook of AIDS pathology can also be downloaded from the website.