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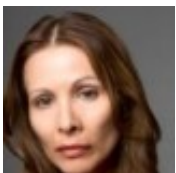
Ruth asks...

Do you think that my Strawberry birthmark will prevent me from joining the military?

I have had it since the moment I was born. I have gotten it checked out when I was first born and the doctors said that there was nothing wrong with it. I am 17 years old. I have NEVER had to take any kind of medicine for it. It does NOT bother me. Sometimes I even forget that it is even there.

It is on my chest. I can easily cover it up with a shirt. I can still wear tank tops. The birthmark is about the same size as the bottom of a coffee mug. It has NEVER prevented me from doing anything. I can run, do push-ups, set-ups, and even chin-ups. I do NOT have high blood pressure, **diabetes**, asthma, or a rare blood type. I am NOT ashamed of MY birthmark because I got lucky. It could have been located on my neck, face, leg, or arm, but instead it is located on my chest. I just hope that it does NOT ruin my chances of achieving my dream of joining the military. The branch that I am the most interested in is the Marine Corps, but any branch would be fine. Well here are some **pictures**:

<http://images.ask.com/pictures?q=Strawberry+Birthmark&qsrc=8&o=0&l=dir>



Linda answers:

No, I am absolutely certain it won't matter. Lots of people in the services have birth marks.

The reason why it's no problem is because it doesn't affect you, it's not a "condition" that will affect anyone else, it won't interfere in your ability to serve, and military service won't aggravate it.

You can read more about medical requirements at:

<http://usmilitary.about.com/od/joiningthemilitary/a/intmedstandards.htm>

And finally: all the best for your military career!

Daniel asks...

itchy bumps on my intimate area,like small pimples but no puss, if i scratch too much becomes sensitive?

i have checked std's and saw **images** and they're similar to scabies or the molluscum virus but they're not as abundant as in teh **pictures**, i have just one "bump"once or twice a month..first one was like 5 months ago . or could it be a sign of **diabetes** ? i'm a clean person, so bad hygiene is out of teh question. thank you if you try to help with opinions or answers



Linda answers:

It's possible you may have genital warts (caused by HPV).

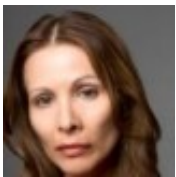
I had genital warts about 10 months ago and I looked at pictures online and pictures in books and it looked nothing like them, but that is what they were.

You really should have this checked out by a doctor. HPV not only can cause warts but it can also cause cancer, including cervical cancer, which is the second most common type of cancer in women. Visit your doctor and have them take a look. They would be able to properly diagnose you. Good luck!

Richard asks...

Flashing lights in eyes and doctors can't find the problem?

Hi. I have persistant flashes of light in my eyes. It has been happening for two years now. They occur numerous times a day. Most of the flashes look just like when someone has taken your picture and you are left with the image in your eye. These flashes are the same just a bright light that flys in my vision and I have to lay down and close my eyes for a few minutes for it to go away. I also sometimes see big black spots in my vision. I ocasionaly get floaters as well but I always had those. Any changes in light always triggers them not to mention they occur randomly. I have been to several eye doctors and specialist and they determined I have no retinal problems or any other eye problems. Also had two MRI's an a CT scan and showed nothing. My family doctor did blood work on me and only found a low B12 so we are all at a loss as to what is effecting my eyes. I do not have **diabetes** or blood pressure problems. Serious ideas are much appreciated and needed!!!!!!!



Linda answers:

Get checked for LYME DISEASE (and co-infections...babesiosis, particularly). Insist on a Western Blot by a lab specializing in tick borne illnesses (e.g., Igenex, MDL, Bowen).

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