



## Three doses of the same drug: too much for Julieta!

Julieta, a 5-year-old, has a stuffy nose, cough and fever. Her mother goes to the medicine cabinet and gives her a dose of Advil<sup>®</sup> to lower her temperature.

During the night Julieta awakens with a violent earache. "It's a good thing we have some child Nureflex<sup>®</sup> left!" her parents agree, and give Julieta a dose. But Julieta continues to complain and the doctor can't come straight away.

– "Let's try something else..."

– "OK, we don't want to give her more Nureflex<sup>®</sup> than the highest recommended dose ..."

So her parents decide to give Julieta a dose of Antarene<sup>®</sup> to relieve her pain. Later that night Julieta develops violent stomach cramps and her parents are so worried they take her to the local emergency department.

What her parents don't realise is that they have given Julieta the same drug (ibuprofen) 3 times, under 3 different trade names, provoking inflammation of her stomach (gastritis) without improving her condition. If they had known what an INN is, and if they had been able to identify it on the packaging of each product, they could have avoided harming their daughter.

### Using INN reduces the risk of overdose

The INN (International Nonproprietary Name) is quite simply a drug's real name. Created by the World Health Organization (WHO), the INN system is used throughout the world. It allows healthcare professionals and patients to identify a drug precisely and with confidence, and to avoid potentially serious adverse effects due to confusion between drugs. With the INN, everything is simpler, clearer and more precise.

**Ask your doctor and pharmacist to explain the INN system**



"The INN campaign: a drug's real name": explanations and other materials produced by the Medicines in Europe Forum are available from the following websites:

- Association Mieux Prescrire ([www.prescrire.org](http://www.prescrire.org))
- Fédération Nationale de la Mutualité Française ([www.mutualite.fr](http://www.mutualite.fr))
- Union Fédérale des Consommateurs Que Choisir ([www.quechoisir.org](http://www.quechoisir.org))

The INN, a drug's real name: leaflets are available to download for free at [www.prescrire.org](http://www.prescrire.org), along with explanations of the reasons for using the INN and the (rare) drawbacks.