Malay Mail : 5 December 2006&#65533; WHEN it comes to health, never take a risk. The price may be cheap but consumers should be aware that drugs offered via e-mail could pose other health problems.

&#65533;It&#65533;s dangerous,&#65533; said Federation of Malaysian Consumers Associations president N. Marimuthu &#65533;We are talking about quality and safety. To me it&#65533;s simple. If you need prescription drugs, go to a doctor, relate your problems and get your medicine,&#65533; he said.

Marimuthu reminded consumers to be careful and not to be easily influenced by what was offered.

&#65533;They must think that this is about life. They cannot simply buy the drugs they want from the Internet. These are the imported products which didn&#65533;t go through proper approvals from our Government.

&#65533;If something goes wrong, who do you go to?&#65533; he asked.

National Consumer Complaints Centre director Darshan Singh offered the same advice.

&#65533;Ignore it. I also received hundreds of such e-mail until I became fed up.

&#65533;But I will not buy them because we don&#65533;t even know the authenticity of the products.

&#65533;If anything happens ... if you got sick, you&#65533;re not protected since some of the products do not even have manufacturer&#65533;s name or logo. You can&#65533;t ask for compensation or replacement too,&#65533; he said.

Darshan said consumers should buy medicine from registered doctors or pharmacies.

&#65533;To me, prevention is better than cure. Why buy medicine from a source whom we can&#65533;t verify? It&#65533;s as simple as that,&#65533; he said.

Darshan said so far, he had not received complaints on the on-line medicine.

&#65533;We only received enquiries about the products,&#65533; he said.
