

FREE!!
TAKE ME HOME



**YOUR
DOCTOR** 

JANUARY 2017

HEALTH HQ

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HOURS AND SERVICES

Consultations by appointment.

If you need to be seen urgently or need a long consultation, please ask when you book. Home visits within 5km can be arranged if necessary.

Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri 8:30am-5:00pm

Thursday 8:30am-6:00pm

Saturday 8:30am-12:30pm

AFTER HOURS CARE

GP & Home Visits: Chevron After Hours
(07) 5532 8666

Hospital: Pindara Emergency Centre
(07) 5588 9000

In a serious emergency, call 000.

VALUABLE WEBSITES FOR QUALITY INFORMATION

www.travelmedicine.com.au

www.healthinsite.gov.au

A PICTURE TELLS A THOUSAND WORDS

Childhood is an important stage of life for learning and development.

It's the time when habits, both good and bad, are formed, and attitudes towards different aspects of life are developed. Parents and caregivers play a substantial role in influencing a child's development. This is particularly relevant when it comes to food and mealtimes.

Children can be notoriously fussy when it comes to eating healthy foods, particularly vegetables, and it is up to parents to encourage these healthy behaviours and attitudes early on in life. Parents' jobs are made more difficult by the wide array of junk food advertising children are exposed to through television, movies and social media. It is difficult to control exposure to this marketing, therefore it's up to parents to come up with creative ways to combat this.

Time and knowledge can be two factors limiting parents' ability to encourage their children to make the best choices when it comes to food. This has led researchers to look into other ways that children can be exposed to and encouraged to form positive and healthy food attitudes. One such approach that has been investigated is through children's picture books, looking at whether these can help model positive food habits and behaviours.

Researchers analysed a selection of picture books published between 2000 and 2016. The books were all targeted to children aged between four and eight years old. Each book was analysed for any themes and patterns relating to dietary behaviours.

They found that half of the books featured a specific type of eating behaviour.

Around 20% featured lifestyle and eating patterns and 20% featured food-related sensations and emotions. Table manners were a theme in 9% of the books. The eating patterns featured involved nutritional variety and balance, overall health and mindfulness. Other themes include unhealthy eating, weight management and special diets for different allergies.

The researchers concluded that while dietary behaviours are common in children's books, those promoting healthy eating are in short supply. They also found that the stories often involved an adult and child interacting over food behaviours and that some books contained outdated and factually incorrect information.

Children's books are not a substitute for parents in shaping healthy behaviours in children. They can, however, play a helping hand in getting the message across in an engaging way that children are likely to respond to. Just ensure that the books are factually correct and up to date before reading them to your child.

Reference: Matvienko O. Qualitative analysis of dietary behaviors in picture book fiction for 4- to 8-year-olds. *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior* 2016;48:602-608.



DID YOU KNOW? YOU CAN FIGHT THE 'OBESITY GENE'

Overweight and obesity are largely lifestyle driven, promoted by lack of physical activity and 'Western' diets high in salt, sugar and saturated fats.

There is a genetic component to obesity, but this is often overstated, and does not doom someone to a life of overweight or obesity. Nearly 100 gene variants have been linked to changes in body weight, with one standing out as having a stronger association with changes in weight. This gene is called the FaT mass and Obesity-associated (FTO) gene and it explains the largest amount of genetic variation in obesity traits over a person's lifetime.

A person who has two copies of the FTO gene has about 70% increased likelihood of becoming obese compared to someone without the gene. This has left some people with this gene wondering if weight loss will be close to impossible. A European research team tested this assumption.

The team analysed eight weight loss trials that involved around 10,000 people. These studies included the FTO status of each person. At the beginning of the weight loss intervention, participants with the FTO gene were on average 1kg heavier than those without it. Following that, however, the analysis showed that the ability to lose (or not lose) weight over the course of the intervention was not related to whether or not someone had the FTO gene. The researchers highlighted that the successful strategies used in these studies would help people lose weight in the long term regardless of whether or not they had this gene.

This research suggests that it's environment, not genetic predisposition, that's likely to have the largest impact on a person's ability to lose weight. Even those with a higher genetic risk of overweight and obesity were able to lose weight when following interventions correctly. The hardest part of weight loss, the researchers highlighted, was the ability to stick to the healthy lifestyle changes for the long-term.

This does not mean that weight loss is easy – it's not – but it does mean that regardless of your genetic predisposition you can get fit and healthy with hard work and long-term adherence.

Reference: Livingstone K et al. FTO genotype and weight loss: systematic review and meta-analysis of 9563 individual participant data from eight randomised controlled trials. *BMJ* 2016;354:i4707.

FLU VACCINE: A WORTHWHILE PRECAUTION

The Australian Government recommends that the annual seasonal influenza vaccination be given to "any person aged six months and over who wishes to reduce the likelihood of becoming ill with the flu".

Seasonal flu comes with a substantial health burden increasing risk of illness and death, particularly in vulnerable populations such as the elderly or diseased. For example, influenza may hasten vascular events in patients with heart disease.

Despite this increased risk, there remains some uncertainty around the degree to which flu immunisation can protect groups at high risk of infection. Furthermore, concerns have been raised about giving the flu vaccine to groups such as the elderly or those with chronic conditions, which might impair the immune response to the vaccine. Given that this group may be particularly vulnerable to the negative health outcomes associated with flu infection, more research is needed to investigate vaccine efficacy in this group.

Researchers analysed the effectiveness of the seasonal flu vaccine against a range of outcomes in people with type 2 diabetes. Records were analysed for adults

with type 2 diabetes. Outcomes included hospital admissions for heart attack, stroke, pneumonia, heart failure and all-cause death. Nearly 125,000 people with type 2 diabetes were included in the study.

Seasonal influenza vaccine uptake ranged from 63 – 69% in the study population. The results showed that flu vaccination was associated with significant reductions in all these outcomes during the flu season. Immunisation was also associated with lower rates of most outcomes during the pre and post-flu seasons.

This study suggests that the flu vaccine might be a useful precaution for people with type 2 diabetes to reduce risk of hospitalisation due to a variety of events. Further research is required to assess whether these results apply for other chronic conditions.

Talk to your doctor about what conditions you have should you be concerned about getting vaccinated.

Reference: Vamos, E et al. (2016). Effectiveness of the influenza vaccine in preventing admission to hospital and death in people with type 2 diabetes. *CMAJ*. DOI: 10.1503/cmaj.151059.

Clever
CROSSWORD

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND IN THIS
EDITION OF YOUR DOCTOR.
SOLUTION IS ON THE BACK PAGE.

DOWN

- Provides free and confidential support.
- Research suggests that this is likely to have the largest impact on a person's ability to lose weight.
- Athletes use them as fuel for competition.
- A national youth mental health foundation.
- It can reduce the likelihood of becoming ill with the flu.
- It tells a thousand words.
- If you experience mental health issues it's important that you don't suffer in this way.

ACROSS

- Extract of this is extremely popular on the shelves in your local pharmacy.
- A type of rice noodle.
- An important stage of life for learning and development.
- May hasten vascular events in patients with heart disease.
- High job insecurity was associated with an increased risk of this.

NUTRITION

GI NOT THE STAR FACTOR FOR SPORTS PERFORMANCE

Athletes have long turned to carbohydrates to provide them with fuel for competition.

Particularly for endurance athletes, carbohydrates act as a fuel source for hard working muscle. Advice for athletes has long been to 'carb load' pre-race as well as post-race. Pre-race carbohydrate fuelling ensures that body stores are optimal and can be called upon during the race.

Not all carbohydrates have the same fuelling capacities and nutrient content. This is where the concept of Glycaemic Index (GI) has attracted attention. High GI foods are digested and absorbed quickly and the glucose from the food is more rapidly available in the bloodstream. High GI foods include mashed potato, jasmine rice, bananas and cornflakes.

Low GI foods do the opposite and include foods like red lentils, muesli and yoghurt. In theory, eating low GI foods before competing would be a good thing, providing a slow-releasing form of glucose into the body that can be used during the race. Low GI carbohydrates can also prevent rapid peaks and falls in blood glucose and insulin. While this is good in theory,

researchers have put low GI foods to the test in real-world experiments to see if they really do translate to improved performance for athletes.

Researchers looked at 19 trials involving nearly 200 active and fit regular exercisers. They found no clear benefit in participants consuming low GI meals pre-exercise for performance in endurance sports. There was a small benefit associated with consuming a low GI meal pre-exercise if no carbohydrates were consumed during the race, however, this was not statistically significant.

This research suggests that the GI content of a food isn't the miracle worker that it is sometimes portrayed to be when it comes to fuelling athletes for endurance sports. Results from this analysis suggest that the GI content of a meal should come secondary to choosing foods that an athlete is comfortable with and are practical to consume pre, during and post race.

Reference: Burdon CA et al. Effect of glycemic index of a pre-exercise meal on endurance exercise performance: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Sports Medicine Epub online September 28, 2016. doi: 10.1007/s40279-016-0632-8.

MYTH VS FACT

IS JOB INSECURITY A RISK FACTOR FOR DIABETES?

Economic instability is often followed by an increase in unemployment rates.

Downsizing in companies along with redundancies leads to an increase in unemployment and in the prevalence of temporary workers and casual contractors.

Job insecurity can have a profound effect on a person's economic and social circumstances and can increase risk of mental ill health like anxiety and other mental health conditions. Research has found that job insecurity is associated with negative physical health outcomes like heart disease.

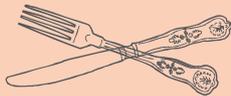
Type 2 diabetes is largely a lifestyle driven condition, which has become increasingly common in recent years. Known risk factors for type 2 diabetes include poor diet and lack of physical activity. Job insecurity has been found to be associated with increases in body mass index (BMI), which is a strong risk factor for diabetes, and this has led some researchers to hypothesise that there may be an association between job insecurity and type 2 diabetes.

Researchers analysed data from 19 studies that included a combined total of more than 140,000 people. Job insecurity was measured at the beginning of all studies, with some studies also asking about levels of insecurity, satisfaction with job security and fears of unemployment.

The primary outcome was the incidence of diabetes. High job insecurity was associated with an increased risk of diabetes compared with low job insecurity. The rates of job insecurity ranged between 6.3% to 40.3% across the studies. The results of this analysis suggest that job insecurity may be a risk factor for diabetes. Being insecure about ongoing employment and associated financial concerns, can also have detrimental effects on overall quality of life.

If you are finding yourself worried about your work on an ongoing basis, to the extent that it's interfering with your everyday life or health, don't suffer in silence. Talk to your employer or a healthcare professional for support.

Reference: Ferrie, J et al (2016). Job insecurity and risk of diabetes: a meta-analysis of individual participant data. CMAJ DOI: 10.1503/cmaj.150942.



Good Health on the Menu

VEGETARIAN RICE PAPER ROLLS

Try this deliciously fresh, low GI snack that's perfect for summer entertaining.

Ingredients

- 80g Vermicelli rice noodles
- 1 carrot, finely grated
- 1 cucumber, finely sliced
- ½ red capsicum, finely sliced
- 1 cup shredded Chinese cabbage
- Coriander leaves – whole
- Mint leaves – whole
- Rice paper wrappers



Method

- Place Vermicelli rice noodles in a bowl of boiling water for 5 minutes or until soft.
- Drain noodles, and cut them into shorter lengths – approximately one third of their original size.
- Place noodles, vegetables and herbs in a bowl and toss to combine.
- Place 1 sheet of rice paper in warm water until it softens.
- Place softened sheet of rice paper on a board.
- Spoon 1/3 cup of vegetable filling horizontally across the lower part of the sheet.
- Fold the bottom end of the sheet over, followed by the sides, then roll up tightly.
- Repeat for remaining sheets and mixture.

For extra flavour, serve with a small bowl of reduced salt soy sauce for dipping.



Dr Norman Swan
A MATTER OF HEALTH



CRANBERRIES FOR YOUR BLADDER?

A glance around the shelves in your local pharmacy will tell you that cranberry extract is extremely popular.

It's mostly used by women when they have cystitis or a urinary infection, but a recent randomised trial suggests you might be best saving your money. The history of cranberry is quite old and stems from North America where Native Americans used cranberries for a variety of sources for thousands of years.

When it comes to urinary infections, there is little evidence that cranberry extracts can get rid of the germs but they may help to relieve some of the symptoms while antibiotics attack the cause.

That leaves the question for women who have recurrent cystitis of whether cranberry extract can help to prevent future infections and that's what this recent trial tried to answer.

The active ingredients in cranberries are called proanthocyanidins and they used extract at a dose of 72mg per day in the year long study. Unfortunately the extract didn't prevent urinary infections.

This doesn't mean that women who find that cranberry extracts help, should stop using them, but it does mean that if you have cystitis then you need to see your doctor.

A HELPING HAND AT HEADSPACE

Headspace is a national youth mental health foundation designed to improve the mental health and wellbeing of young people in Australia.

Headspace began in 2006 with 10 centres around Australia and has grown to around 93 centres. It offers a variety of services designed to provide early assistance and treatment to young people with mental health conditions or at risk of developing mental disorders. **headspace** services are provided either free or at a very low cost.

Services provided include Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) – a type of psychotherapy that assists people in developing self-help strategies to change unhelpful and unhealthy habits, behaviours and ways of thinking – interpersonal psychotherapy, psychoeducation, mindfulness-based therapies, and access to good quality evidence-based information and a range of healthcare professionals. Researchers evaluated the effectiveness of **headspace** services in reducing psychological distress and improving psychosocial functioning in its clients.

People presenting at **headspace** were assessed before their 1st, 3rd, 6th, 10th and 15th visits and at their follow up appointment. The primary concern that they initially presented with was recorded, in addition to the treatment services they received and the outcomes in terms

of psychological distress and overall psychosocial functioning.

The most common mental health problems people presented with at their initial visit to **headspace** were depression and anxiety. The most common treatments received were CBT, supportive counselling and psychoeducation. The results showed that psychological distress was significantly reduced in more than a third of people for whom data was available. Clinician ratings of psychosocial functioning suggest that psychosocial functioning was improved in more than a third of people.

The results of this study suggest that **headspace** is effective in improving mental health outcomes in young people with mental health conditions. Other research has found that this service is acceptable to young people. Early intervention in mental health has the potential to improve long-term outcomes and quality of life, and reduce the risk of long-term mental health related disability.

If you experience mental health issues it's important that you don't suffer in silence. There are good quality, affordable treatments available for young people through services like **headspace** that you can access to help you get back on track. Visit the website www.headspace.org.au for more information.

If you are experiencing mental health problems, Lifeline provides free and confidential support, phone 13 11 14.

Reference: Rickwood, D et al. (2015). Changes in psychological distress and psychosocial functioning in young people accessing headspace centres for mental health problems. MJA, 10, 537 – 543. doi: 10.5694/mja14.016696.



PRACTICE UPDATE

SERVICE

Our mission is to provide the highest quality care and service using evidence based medicine to ensure the health of our patients. "Quality caring" means we excel in our work, products, and environment and show concern for and interest in our patients' needs. Further information about our practice policies can be obtained by asking one of our friendly receptionists.

PRIVACY

Your medical record is a confidential document. It is the policy of this practice to maintain security of personal health information at all times and to ensure that this information is only available to authorised staff members. You can make a request in writing for a copy of your records to be transferred to another GP.

COMMUNICATION

Information regarding appointments, investigations, results, scripts, referrals may be shared with your consent as required for your care. Patient requests requiring action are attended to promptly, based on level of urgency. You will be notified if there is any charge for the service.

FOLLOW-UP OF RESULTS

Your doctor will decide with you how to inform you of test results (e.g., phone call, follow-up appointment, etc.). All results are reviewed by the ordering doctor. For any results requiring urgent action, you will be phoned. If you have not been contacted regarding your results, call and ask.

FEEDBACK

Our goal is to provide a quality, caring service. If you have any concerns or suggestions, please let us know. We genuinely wish to hear from you. If we have not satisfied your concerns, please contact the Health Quality and Complaints Commission on 1800 077 308 or info@hqcc.qld.gov.au.

FEES

Consults \$65 gap. Welfare \$50 gap. Extra for Travel vaccines and medication. Skin checks for HCC/Pension card holders \$12 gap, New HCC/Pension Patients \$25 gap. DVA bulk-billed. Scripts and referral letters \$20 (bulk-billed if collected by patient). Saturday: No concessions. 3% surcharge for American Express and Diners Club payments.

SKIN HQ

P: (07) 5591 4844 • www.skinhq.com.au
Remember to book your next skin check with Skin HQ. Ask about our laser, IPL and PDT treatments. Anti-wrinkle and volume enhancement treatments are also available.

VASECTOMY VENUE

Gold Coast Circumcisions
P: (07) 5531 1170 • www.vasectomyvenue.com.au
www.gccircumcisions.com.au

Dr Michael Read provides "no scalpel" vasectomies as permanent contraception for men. He also performs circumcisions for boys and men, as well as babies.

TRAVEL HEALTH DOCTORS

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A member of the Travel Medicine Alliance, The Travel Health Doctors at Health HQ receive daily updates from worldwide sources to give you accurate, personalised advice based on your itinerary. We carry almost all vaccines and other travel requirements. We work with your GP in caring for you in a specific area.

WE WELCOME DR SALLY KERVISON TO THE HEALTHHQ TEAM. DR KERVISON HAS OVER 20 YEARS IN GENERAL PRACTICE, FOCUSING ON WOMEN'S HEALTH.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION
Down 1. LIFELINE 3. ENVIRONMENT 4. CARBOHYDRATES 5. HEADSPACE 6. VACCINE 8. PICTURE 10. SILENCE
Across 2. CRANBERRY 7. VERMICELLI 9. CHILDHOOD 11. INFLUENZA 12. DIABETES