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Aid healing through foods

Colds, fevers, even recovering from surgery can be hard on your body. But eating right can play a big role in feeling better. A good menu can give you healing. Here are some foods that can help you heal.

Banana

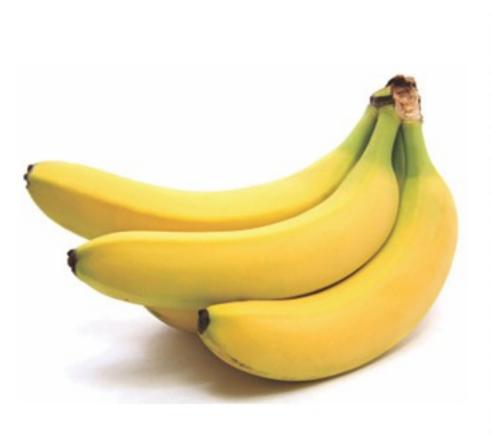
Banana is a very good remedy for the cure of stress or anxiety. Next time you feel stressed, reach for a banana. With only 105 calories and 14 g of sugar, a medium banana fills you up, provides a mild blood sugar boost, and has 30% of the day's vitamin B6, which helps the brain produce mellowing serotonin, getting you through a crisis peacefully.

Yogurt

If you are having constipation or excessive gas accumulation in your stomach, yogurt can be a good medicine. One and a half cups of live-culture yogurt (high in gut-friendly bacteria) pushes food more efficiently through the gastrointestinal tract, says a 2002 study in Alimentary Pharmacology & Therapeutics. The beneficial bacteria also improve our gut's ability to digest beans and dairy lactose, which can cause gas.

Ginger tea

Dozens of studies reveal that ginger (1/4 teaspoon of powdered, 1/2 to 1 teaspoon of minced gingerroot, or a cup of ginger





tea) can ease nausea from motion sickness and pregnancy. It is safe and has





none of the side effects (dry mouth, drowsiness) as experienced in medicine.

Pear

One medium pear has 5 g of dietary fiber, much of it in the form of pectin, which helps flush out bad cholesterol, a risk factor in heart disease.

Garlic

Garlic contains essential oils that can inhibit the growth of the fungus specially common one called Candida albicans fungus. Candida is the main culprit in the pain, itch, and vaginal discharge. Include garlic in sauces, salad dressings, and marinades.

Potatoes

The 37 g of carbs in a medium potato can ease a tension headache by upping serotonin levels, as long as you keep the fat and protein below 2 g.

Cabbage

A 2002 study at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine found that sulforaphane, a powerful compound in cabbage, clobbers *H. pylori* (the bacteria that causes gastric and peptic ulcers) before it can get to your gut, and may even help inhibit the growth of gastric tumors. For only 34 calories a cup, cabbage provides 3 g of fiber and 75% of the day's vitamin C.

Source: http://www.prevention.com

ORESITY

Biggest risk factor for diabetes among poor

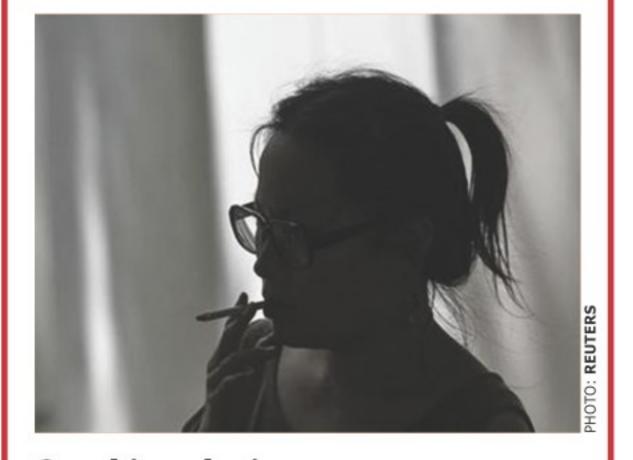


Obesity is the most important risk factor for type 2 diabetes among poor people, according to a new study published in British Medical Journal (BMJ). It also says that lifestyle changes are the key to reducing diabetes in poor.

Poor people have higher rates of type 2 diabetes than more wealthy people and lifestyle-related risk factors are believed to be a major reason for that difference.

Health behaviours (smoking, alcohol consumption, diet and physical activity) and body mass index (a measure of body fat based on height and weight) accounted for 53 percent of this socioeconomic difference. BMI was the single most important factor, accounting for about 20 percent of the socioeconomic difference, the authors pointed out in a journal news release.

HEALTHbulletin



Smoking during pregnancy tied to kids' asthma

Children whose mothers smoked during pregnancy may have an increased risk of asthma— even if they were not exposed to secondhand smoke after birth, a large study of European children published in the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine suggests.

Older dads linked to rise in genetic disorder

A genetic study has added to evidence that the increase in some mental and other disorders may be due to men having children later in life. The research is published in Nature found that the number of genetic mutations in children was directly related to the age of their father when they were conceived. One prominent researcher suggested young men should consider freezing their sperm if they wanted to have a family in later life.

Simple precautions in the sun

The rise in the incidence of skin cancers over the past decades is strongly related to increasingly popular outdoor activities and recreational exposure. Overexposure to sunlight is widely accepted as the underlying cause for harmful effects on the skin, eye and immune system. Experts believe that four out of five cases of skin cancer could be prevented, as UV damage is mostly avoidable.

Adopting the following simple precautions, adapted from the Sun Wise School Programme can make all the difference. Shade, clothing and hats provide the best protection — applying sunscreen

becomes necessary on those parts of the body that remain exposed like the face and hands. Sunscreen should never be used to prolong the duration of sun exposure.

Limit time in the midday sun The sun's UV rays are the strongest between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. To the extent possible, limit exposure to the sun during these hours.

Use shade wisely

Seek shade when UV rays are the most intense, but keep in mind that shade structures such as trees, umbrellas or canopies do not offer complete sun protection. Remember the shadow rule: "Watch your shadow

— Short shadow, seek shade!"



Wear protective clothing A hat with a wide brim offers good sun protection for your eyes, ears, face, and the back or your neck. Sunglasses that provide 99 to 100 percent UV-A and UV-B protection will greatly reduce eye damage from sun exposure. Tightly woven, loose fitting clothes will provide additional protection from the sun.

Use sunscreen

Apply a broad-spectrum sunscreen of SPF 15+ liberally and re-apply every two hours, or after working, swimming, playing or exercising outdoors.

Avoid sunlamps and tanning parlours

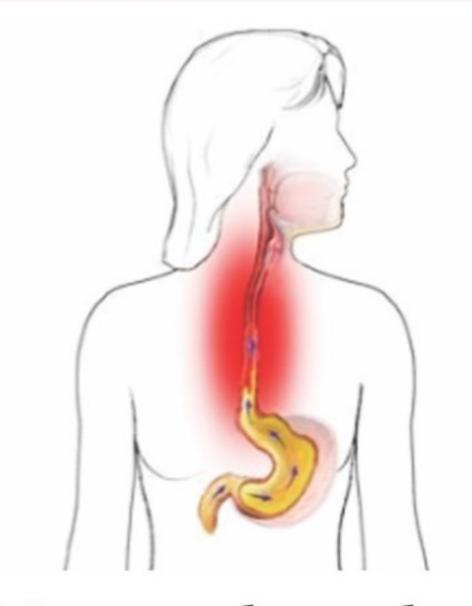
Sunbeds damage the skin and unprotected eyes and are best avoided entirely.

Protecting children

Children are in a dynamic state of growth, and are therefore more susceptible to environmental threats than adults. Sun protection programmes especially in school setting, are urgently needed to raise awareness of the health hazards of UV radiation and to achieve changes in lifestyle that will arrest the trend towards more and more skin cancers.

Source: World Health Organisation

HEALTH TIPS



Manage heartburn during pregnancy

Heartburn is common during pregnancy due to an expanding uterus and hormonal changes. Following suggestions may help you ease heartburn during pregnancy:

- Avoid large meals. Instead, eat several small meals throughout the day, remembering to eat slowly.
- Drink most of your fluids between meals, rather than with them.
 Avoid fried, spicy or greasy foods and any citrus
- fruits or juices.

 •Avoid eating and drinking within a few hours
- •Avoid eating and drinking within a few hours before bedtime.
- •Stay upright just after a meal.



