

News to Digest

Health tips from your Gastroenterologist...



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Dr. Fusco's High Fiber Diet

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Most Americans Don't Eat Enough Fiber

Health experts agree that the typical American diet, deficient in fiber and bulk, is the primary cause of common digestive ailments such as chronic constipation, hemorrhoids, and diverticular disease. A high fiber diet will lessen the risk of obesity and Type II Diabetes. As food becomes more highly processed, most Americans are not eating enough fiber. The minimum benchmark used by many dietitians is 25 grams of fiber a day for women, and 30 grams a day for men. Most people in the United States average only 10 to 15 grams of dietary fiber a day and would benefit significantly by increasing their daily intake.

My Daily Diet Routine

1. I begin the day with a high fiber cereal

There are many so-called "high fiber" cereals in our grocery stores. Don't confuse "whole grain" with high fiber. They are not the same. Although whole grain is an unprocessed kernel, it isn't necessarily high in fiber. Read the label. Your cereal should have at least 5 grams of fiber per serving.

My favorite choice of high fiber cereal is Fiber One. Fiber One alone is a bit bland, but can be improved with the addition of fresh fruit. *Fiber One Raisin Bran* and *Fiber One Honey Clusters* have more flavor, and each has about 11 - 13 grams of fiber per bowl. I let these cereals soak in the milk for a few minutes before adding my choice of canned or seasonal fresh fruit, which further increases the fiber content of my breakfast to half of my daily recommended benchmark amount of 30 grams. Another good choice would be a bowl of oatmeal with added fruit each morning.

2. I eat two apples every day

I love apples. Not only for the flavor, but they also add about 10 grams of fiber to my daily intake. To avoid eating pesticide residues, I buy organic produce. I usually eat one at lunchtime as I review my charts, and one on the drive home.



3. Eat 2 servings of vegetables with your dinner

My wife is very informed about eating healthy meals, and snacks. She helps me manage my daily ingestion of fruits and vegetables. We often split a package of frozen vegetables, such as Steamfresh, as a side dish with our dinner each night, adding a further 4 grams of fiber to my diet.

4. My “Magic Fiber Mix” is as easy as A, B, C

I will be 75 soon and long ago joined the “Medicare club”. I have had numerous surgeries, including hemorrhoidal; the removal of 17 precancerous colon polyps; and I have developed a fair amount of diverticulosis. I don’t want any more trouble. Therefore, to counteract future adverse discoveries, I believe that changing my diet simply by adding a daily fiber supplement and stool softener mix, is the most effective antidote. It’s no bother to add the purchase of the three ingredients to your shopping cart. I shop at Costco, and every few months, I purchase larger containers of Metamucil Smooth Texture, orange-flavored; Optifiber; and Laxaclear. Here’s what I do with them:

A. In a large, lidded container, I add 1 CUP OF ORANGE-FLAVORED METAMUCIL.



Buying the generic psyllium powder, or the plain Metamucil will save you money, but it has a very gritty texture. I recommend buying the Metamucil Smooth Texture brand only.

B. Add 2 CUPS OF COSTCO’S OPTIFIBER. (Brand name : Benefiber) to the Metamucil.



C. Add 1 CUP OF COSTCO’S LAXACLEAR. Original brand name: Miralax. CVS brand: Purelax. Walgreen’s: Smoothlax. Sams’s Club: ClearLAX.



Stir and shake this three-powder mixture until thoroughly combined. I store mine near the kitchen sink in the sealed container. An added bonus of this mixture is that there is no harmful stimulant laxative, which can cause cramps or laxative dependency, if used too often. These products can be taken at this low dose indefinitely without harming your colon, and they are non-addictive.



TWICE EACH DAY: once before breakfast, and once before dinner, I add TWO TABLESPOONS OF THIS MIXTURE to 8 ounces of cold water. Stir it vigorously for about 20 seconds making sure that all the powder is dissolved. It tastes like Tang, and it only takes a few gulps to drink it all down. Not bad! I do this every day and all is well down below...Bottoms UP!

(Many patients find that once a pattern of regular bowel movements is established, they can decrease this to just once a day.)

Center for Digestive Health & Nutrition

The **Center for Digestive Health & Nutrition** is a private medical practice in Moon Township, PA.

Our seven experienced gastroenterologists, and a support staff are all dedicated to the prevention and treatment of your digestive disorders.

Our physicians have been successfully treating patients in and around Western Pennsylvania since 1977. The Center for Digestive Health & Nutrition is proud to have a combined medical staff clinical experience of over 200 years. We have provided attentive treatment to tens of thousands of individuals.

We are sympathetic to the very sensitive nature of digestive illness, and consider each case as unique. Our intent is to consistently provide the highest quality of care in an effective, private, and patient-friendly environment. We are very proud of our positive patient satisfaction, and would be honored to add you and your family to our roster of patients, should any digestive issues arise.

For more information, please call 412.262.1000 or access our website at www.gihealth.com.



Fiber Content of Common Foods

Basically, the term fiber refers to carbohydrates that cannot be digested. Fiber is present in all plants that are eaten for food, including fruits, vegetables, grains, and legumes. Looking to add more fiber to your diet? Fiber — along with adequate fluid intake — moves quickly and relatively easily through your digestive tract and helps it function properly. A high-fiber diet may also help reduce the risk of obesity, heart disease and diabetes.

Almonds slivered 1 tbsp 0.6 sliced 1/4 cup 2.4	Carrots raw, slivered (4-5 sticks) 1/4 cup 1.7 cooked 1/2 cup 3.4	Greens, cooked 1/2 cup 20 collards, beet greens, dandelion, kale, Swiss chard	Potatoes Idaho, baked 1 sm (6 oz) 4.2 mashed potato (with 1/2 cup milk) 1/2 cup sweet: baked 1 sm (5 oz) 4
Apple raw 1 small 3 raw 1 med 4 raw 1 large 4.5 applesauce 2/3 cup 3.6	Cauliflower raw, chopped 3 tiny buds 1.2 cooked, chopped 7/8 cup 2.3	Lentils brown, raw 1/3 cup 5.5 brown, cooked 2/3 cup 5.5 red, raw 1/2 cup 6.4 red, cooked 1 cup 6.4	Prunes pitted 3 1.9
Apricots raw 1 whole 0.8 dried 2 halves 1.7 canned in syrup 3 halves 2.5	Celery raw 1/4 cup 2 chopped 2 tbsp 1 cooked 1/2 cup 3	Lettuce (Boston, leaf, iceberg) shredded 1 cup 0.8	Radishes 3 5
Artichokes cooked 1 large 4.5 canned hearts 4 or 5 sm 4.5	Cereal All-Bran 3 tbsp 5 Bran Buds 3 tbsp 5 Bran Chex 2/3 cup 5 Bran Flakes, plain 1 cup 5 with raisins 1 cup 6 Cornflakes 3/4 cup 2.6 Cracklin' Bran 1/2 cup 4 oatmeal 3/4 cup 7.7 Nabisco 100% Bran 1/2 cup 4 Puffed wheat 1 cup 3.3 Raisin Bran 1 cup 5 Wheaties 1 cup 2	Macaroni whole wheat, cooked 1 cup 5.7 regular baked 10 oz 2.2	Raspberries, red fresh/frozen 1/2 cup 4.6 Raspberry jam 1 tbsp 1
Asparagus cooked, small spears 1/2 cup 1.7	Cherries sweet, raw 10 1.2 sweet, raw 1/2 cup 1.0*	Muffins English, whole wheat 1 whole 3.7 Bran, whole wheat 2 4.6	Rice white 1/2 cup 2 brown 1/2 cup 5.5 instant 1 serv 0.7
Avocado diced 1/4 cup 1.7 sliced 2 slices 0.9 whole 1/2 avg.size 2.8	Chickpeas (garbanzos) canned 1/2 cup 6 cooked 1 cup 12	Mushrooms raw 5 sm 1.4 sautéed or baked 4 lg 2 canned sliced 1/4 cup 2	Sauerkraut canned 2/3 cup 3.1
Baked beans in sauce (8-oz can) 1 cup 16	Corn (sweet) on cob 1 med ear 5 kernels 1/2 cup 5 cream-style, canned 1/2 cup 5 succotash 1/2 cup 6	Noodles whole wheat egg 1 cup 5.7 spinach whole wheat 1 cup 6	Shredded wheat large biscuit 1 piece 2.2 spoon size 1 cup 4.4
Banana whole 1 med 8" 3	Crackers graham 2 1.4 Ry-Krisp 3 2.3 Triscuits 2 2 Wheat Thins 6 2.2	Onion raw 1 tbsp 0.2 cooked 1/2 cup 1.5 instant minced 1 tbsp 0.3 green, raw (scallion) 1/4 cup 0.8	Spaghetti whole wheat, plain 1 cup 5.6 with meat sauce 1 cup 5.6 with tomato sauce 1 cup 6
Beans black, cooked 1 cup 19.4 Great Northern 1 cup 16 kidney beans, canned or 1/2 cup 9.7 cooked 1 cup 19.4	Cucumber, raw unpeeled 10 thin slices 0.7	Orange 1 lg 7.0 1 sm 3.5	Squash summer (yellow) 1/2 cup 2 winter 1/2 cup 3.5
Beets cooked, sliced 1/2 cup 2.5 whole 3 sm. 3.7	Dates, pitted 2 39	Peach raw 1 med 2.3 canned in light syrup 2 halves 1.4	Zucchini raw or cooked 1/2 cup 3
Blackberries raw, no sugar 1/2 cup 4.4 canned, in juice pack 1/2 cup 5 jam, with seeds 1 tbsp 0.7	Eggplant baked with tomatoes 2 thick slices 4	Peanut butter 1 tbsp 86	Strawberries 1 cup 3
Bread Boston brown 2 slices 4.0 cracked wheat 2 slices 3.6 high-bran bread 2 slices 7.0 white 2 slices 1.9 dark rye (whole grain) 2 5.8* slices 5.8* pumpnickel 2 slices 4 seven-grain 2 slices 6.5 whole wheat 2 slices 6 whole wheat raisin 2 slices 6.5	Endive, raw salad 10 leaves 0.6	Peanuts dry roasted 1 tbsp 1.1	Sunflower kernels 1 tbsp 0.5 Sweet pickle relish 1 tbsp 0.5
Broccoli raw 1/2 cup 4 frozen 4 spears 5 fresh, cooked 3/4 cup 7	Figs dried 3 10.5 fresh 1 2	Pear 1 med 8.8	Tomatoes raw 1 sm. 1.4 canned 1/2 cup 1 sauce 1/2 cup 0.5
Brussel sprouts cooked 3/4 cup 3 1 cup 9.6	Grapefruit 1/2 3	Peas green, fresh or frozen 1/2 cup 9.1 black-eyed 1/2 cup 8 split peas, dried 1/2 cup 6.7 cooked 1 cup 13.4	Walnuts shelled, chopped 1 tbsp 1.1
Cabbage, white or red raw 1/2 cup 1.5 cooked 2/3 cup 3	Grapes white 20 1 red or black 15-20 1	Peas and carrots frozen 1/2 pkg(5 oz) 6	Watermelon 1 thick slice 6.8
	Green (snap) beans fresh or frozen 1/2 cup 2.1	Peppers green sweet, raw 2 tbsp 0.3 green sweet, cooked 1/2 cup 1.2 red sweet (pimento) 2 tbsp 1 red chili, fresh 1 tbsp 1.2 dried, crushed 1 tsp 1.2	Yams (orange fleshed sweet potato) cooked or baked 1 med (6oz) 6.8