

HEALTH *Connections*

— YOUR HEALTH, YOUR LIFE —

FINDING
THE ENERGY
YOU NEED

SODIUM
OVERLOAD

BENEFITS OF
Mental
EXERCISE

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ALTA VISTA™
Regional Hospital

Workouts for Your *Brain*

You've heard the many health benefits of exercise routines and sports to keep your body active, but it's also important to keep the mind active. According to the National Center for Biotechnology Information, a 2011 study showed that some effects of age-related mental decline may be reversible through cognitive training programs. Try these activities to help keep your brain healthy and functioning well:

- **Learn a foreign language.** This stimulates the areas of the brain that process reading, speaking, listening and memory.
- **Socialize.** Talking with others exercises your ability to concentrate, quickly analyze what's being said and communicate well.
- **Solve puzzles.** Chess, Sudoku and crosswords improve logical reasoning and problem-solving skills.



E-cigarettes:

A GRAY AREA

Though e-cigarettes have been promoted as safer alternatives to tobacco cigarettes, they aren't risk-free.

Smokers sometimes use e-cigarettes to try to gradually quit smoking since they don't contain tar and other toxic chemicals found in tobacco cigarettes, but they still have nicotine. Nicotine is highly addictive and raises blood pressure and heart rate. Because e-cigarettes are relatively new, their overall side effects haven't been fully studied. In April 2014, the Food and Drug Administration announced plans to regulate e-cigarettes, ban sales to minors and require manufacturers to put health warnings on the devices, but such measures won't be implemented for several years.

Foregoing nicotine altogether is still the best way to prevent addiction and the health problems associated with the substance.

LESS MEAT = *Lower Blood Pressure?*

Researchers in Osaka, Japan, published findings in the journal *JAMA Internal Medicine* that indicate a vegetarian diet helps lower blood pressure. The specific reasons for vegetarians' better heart health haven't been fully defined, but several observations have been made.

The vegetarians in the study had lower body mass index numbers and fewer obesity risks than people who ate meat, and both of these

factors contribute to lower blood pressure. Interestingly, vegetarians with higher body weight still had low blood pressure.

Even going vegetarian part time has multiple benefits, including:

- fewer bad fats
- higher daily fiber intake
- more good fats



UTERINE FIBROIDS: *An Overview*

By Eileen Reardon, M.D.



Uterine fibroids are among the most common tumors in women. These noncancerous growths in the uterus may appear during childbearing years and are not associated with an increased risk of uterine cancer. As many as three out of four women have uterine fibroids; most are unaware of them, as they often cause no signs or symptoms. However, in rare instances, fibroids can require emergency treatment if they cause sudden, sharp pelvic pain.

The most common signs and symptoms of uterine fibroids are:

- heavy menstrual bleeding
- prolonged menstrual periods or bleeding between periods
- pelvic pressure or pain
- urinary incontinence, frequent urination or urine retention
- constipation
- backache or leg pains

Fibroid location influences a woman's signs and symptoms. Fibroids that grow into the inner cavity of the uterus (submucosal fibroids) are thought to be primarily responsible for prolonged, heavy menstrual bleeding. Fibroids that project to the outside

of the uterus (subserosal fibroids) can press on the bladder or ureters, causing urinary symptoms. If fibroids bulge from the back of the uterus, they can press either on the rectum, causing constipation, or on the spinal nerves, causing a backache.

Though doctors do not know exactly what causes fibroids to grow, research and clinical experience point to several factors. Reproductive hormones produced by the ovaries, including estrogen and progesterone, appear to promote the growth of fibroids. Other chemicals that help the body maintain tissues, such as insulin-like growth factor, may affect fibroid growth.

There is no single best approach to treating uterine fibroids, but there are several treatment options.

- Since fibroids are not cancerous, rarely interfere with pregnancy and tend to shrink after menopause, watchful waiting is the best option for most women.
- Having a hysterectomy, the removal of the uterus, remains the only proven permanent solution for uterine fibroids.
- Medications for uterine fibroids target hormones that regulate the menstrual cycle. Therefore, medications may shrink the fibroids, but not eliminate them altogether.

Because fibroids are not cancerous and usually grow slowly, you have time to gather information before making a decision about treatment. The option that is right for you

depends on a number of factors. Before making a decision, consider the pros and cons of all available treatment options in relation to your particular situation.

For more information or to schedule your appointment with Dr. Reardon, call Rio Vista OB/GYN at (505) 454-4000. Rio Vista OB/GYN is located at 108 Legion Drive, Suite D in Las Vegas.



Finding ENERGY *Throughout Your Day*

TRY THESE TRICKS TO MAINTAIN ENERGY LEVELS THROUGHOUT THE DAY, AND **GIVE YOURSELF A BOOST** WHEN YOUR GET-UP-AND-GO HAS GONE.

RISE AND SHINE



Not getting enough quality sleep can start your day off on the wrong foot. One way to ensure you get sufficient shut-eye is to go to bed and wake up at around the same time every day, even on weekends. Establishing a regular sleep cycle helps you fall asleep faster and wake refreshed and ready to face the day.

When the alarm goes off, resist the urge to hit the snooze button. Though you may crave a few more winks, briefly falling back asleep can leave you feeling groggy for hours. Once your feet hit the floor, let plenty of light into the room, which signals your body that it is time to wake up.

EARLY MORNING EYE-OPENER

Even if you are not particularly hungry, eat a little something to get your metabolism going. Lean protein from foods such as yogurt, veggie or turkey sausage, eggs, or peanut butter provides more long-lasting energy than a carbohydrate-packed pastry. If you drink coffee, pace yourself. Drink a few small cups throughout the morning instead of one large cup all at once. As you head out for your daily activities, listen to some upbeat music to get in a high-energy mindset.

MIDMORNING PICK-ME-UP

Eating many small meals throughout the day helps keep energy levels steady, so snack away! Instead of foods filled with processed or hidden sugar, choose energy-enhancing goodies, such as almonds or walnuts, low-fat microwave popcorn, whole-grain crackers, yogurt with a sprinkle of granola on top, or fresh fruit.

If you have a desk job, you may already know that sitting for long periods of time can sap your vitality.

When your eyes start to glaze over, perk up with a few simple stretches — extend your legs and then lift and lower them while flexing your toes, or raise your arms over your head and gently lean back. If you are on your feet all day instead of sitting at a desk, try exercises that build abdominal strength to make standing less fatiguing.

Whether standing or sitting, watch your posture. Hunching your back, slouching your shoulders or leaning can make you tense, achy and tired all day long.



MID-AFTERNOON RECHARGE

Even if you ate a light lunch, you may feel your energy begin to ebb a few hours later. If this happens to you, try closing your eyes for a minute to take a mental mini-vacation. Imagine yourself in a restful scene, envisioning as many details as you can — the sights, scents, sounds and sensations. A break of even five minutes can help you feel refreshed and ready to focus.

Another tip? Try breathing deeply. It relieves tension and provides more energizing oxygen to your body's tissues. Count to four as you inhale through your nose, hold your breath and count to seven, then count to eight as you exhale through your mouth.

Avoid coffee or other caffeinated beverages after lunch — you may regret it later when you are still wide-awake in the wee hours. Instead, drink ice-cold water to give your spirits a lift.

FIVE O'CLOCK REFRESHER

After an exhausting day, you may feel too tired to work out. But rather than making you more tired, moderate aerobic exercise actually helps your body create more energy. To increase your motivation, schedule workouts with a buddy at least three times a week or take your exercise clothes with you to the office and walk, run or hit the gym before heading home.

PRIME TIME POWER-UP

You've exercised and enjoyed a healthy dinner, so now it's time to kick off your shoes and stretch out on the couch, right? Not so fast! Lying down after dinner tends to make you sleepy, and napping in the early evening could disrupt your normal sleep cycle. Instead, take a short, relaxing stroll. Research shows that walking right after dinner aids digestion and stabilizes blood sugar levels, which keeps energy levels consistent.

SWEET DREAMS

In the hour or two before bedtime, limit your use of electronic devices. Remember how light wakes you up in the morning? The bluish glow of your computer, tablet or phone screen has the same effect in the evening.

When it's bedtime, skip the nightcap. Alcohol may help you drop off and sleep soundly for a while, but the effect wears off after a few hours, making you more likely to spend the second half of the night tossing and turning. Even if you do not wake before morning, alcohol has been shown to reduce rapid eye movement (REM) sleep, the deepest and most refreshing sleep phase. Instead, unwind with a warm drink, such as milk, cocoa or herbal tea.

Tried these strategies and still dragging? Persistent fatigue may be a sign of a health condition such as a sleep disorder, a heart condition, anemia or depression — see your doctor.



A Portal for Proactive Health

WHEN YOU ARE DISCHARGED FROM THE HOSPITAL, WE DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND AND FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR POST-HOSPITAL RECOVERY. WE NOW HAVE ANOTHER TOOL TO HELP YOU STAY ON TRACK WITH FOLLOW-UP ORDERS SUCH AS MANAGING NEW MEDICATIONS AND DOCTORS' APPOINTMENTS.

With **My Health Home Patient Portal**, you have a valuable tool to help you manage your health, or that of a loved one, after a hospital stay. A convenient health record you can access online, **My Health Home Patient Portal** brings together the information about your hospital visit in one easily accessible location.

WHAT YOU'LL FIND

My Health Home Patient Portal makes it easier for you to closely follow your guidelines for recovery once you are home. After you set up a Portal account, you can see information about your hospital stay, including your discharge instructions, lab results, medication list and doctor reports. Your Portal account is always available online, and it is secure and private. You can give representatives access to your account, but only you and people you authorize will be able to access your records.

Not only does **My Health Home** help you track what happened

while you were in the hospital and your discharge plan, but it also provides a convenient way to download reports and share information with your outpatient providers.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Is there any cost associated with the patient portal?

A: No. The service is free to help you become a more informed, engaged patient.

Q: How soon will information from my hospital stay be available?

A: Typically, information about an inpatient stay will be available one to three days following discharge.

Q: How will I know something has been added to my account?

A: You will receive a verification email each time information is added.

To learn more about the My Health Home Patient Portal, or for an easy way to link to your account, visit AltaVistaRegionalHospital.com.



GET STARTED WITH MY HEALTH HOME

With our new **My Health Home Patient Portal**, you can now have secure, online access to information about your overnight hospital stays. Setting up a personal account is free — and easy. Start the process the next time you are at the hospital, or as you register for your next hospital visit.

1. At registration, share your photo ID and an email address to begin your account setup.
2. We will send you an email with a link to the Portal so you can complete your account setup.
3. Your username will be the same as the email address you provided. You will enter your name and date of birth and set a password. You also will choose a question to answer each time you log on for an extra layer of security.
4. Visit your Portal account to view information about your hospital stay, download records and share information with your outpatient doctors.

To learn more, visit AltaVistaRegionalHospital.com.

Sodium OVERLOAD

DITCHING THE SALTSHAKER IS JUST THE FIRST STEP TOWARD A LOW-SODIUM DIET.

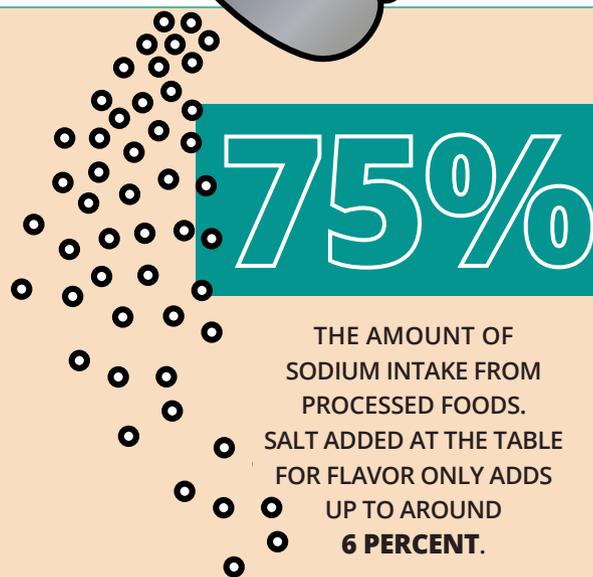
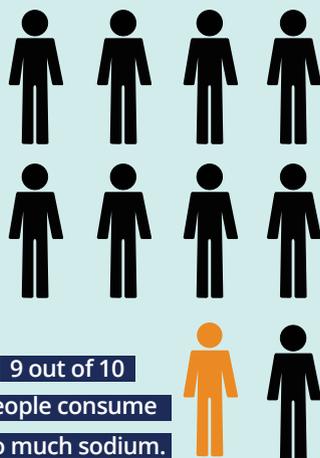
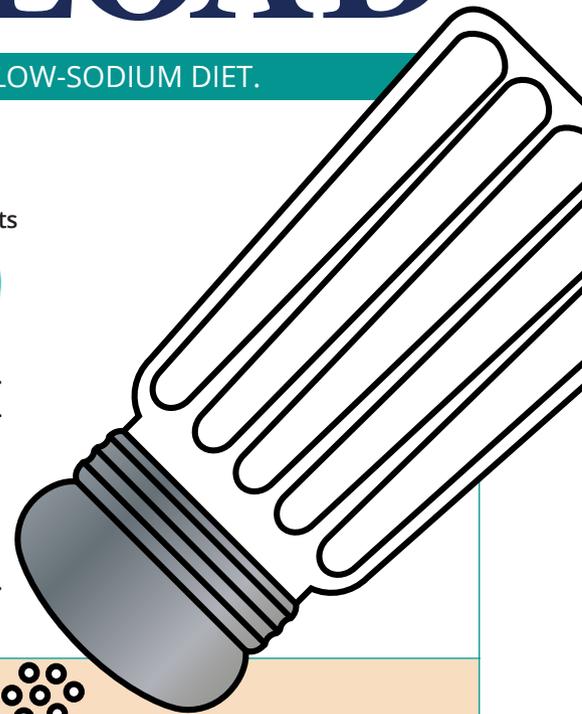
The American Heart Association (AHA) recommends only 1,500 milligrams — slightly more than one-half a teaspoon — of sodium per day. Most Americans consume more than double that amount. Keep an eye on the six most common sources of sneaky sodium identified by the AHA.

- **Bread.** Bread is the top source of sodium for Americans. Look for breads labeled “low-sodium” or “reduced-sodium” for healthier options.
- **Cold cuts.** One serving of deli meat can have up to half of your recommended daily amount of sodium. Try a lower-sodium variety of your favorite lunch meat, or switch to homemade chicken or tuna salad.
- **Pizza.** Stay away from pepperoni and sausage and add a few more veggies. Eliminating pizza altogether cuts out more than 700 milligrams of sodium per slice.
- **Poultry.** Naturally sodium-free, poultry can be loaded with preservatives that add sodium. Stick to healthy ways of cooking your bird while avoiding processed or fried chicken.
- **Soup.** One cup of canned soup packs as much as 940 milligrams of sodium. Look for low-sodium alternatives — or make your own soup!
- **Sandwiches.** A sandwich from your favorite fast-food place can have more than 100 percent of your recommended daily amount of sodium. Try bringing a sandwich from home or ordering a lighter choice from the menu.

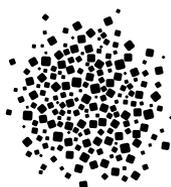
HOW MUCH EACH DAY?

The body needs **200** milligrams of sodium.  The average person gets **3,400** milligrams of sodium.

The AHA recommends **1,500** milligrams of sodium.  ¾ teaspoon of salt = **1,500** milligrams of sodium.



Did You Know?



Kosher salt and **sea salt** CONTAIN THE SAME AMOUNT of sodium as table salt.



Most foods, including **milk** and **celery**, contain sodium.



Too much sodium intake is one risk factor of **high blood pressure**.

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This publication in no way seeks to serve as a substitute for professional medical care. Consult your doctor before undertaking any form of medical treatment or adopting any exercise program or dietary guidelines.



Announcing our new arrival.



Eileen Reardon, M.D.
Member of the Medical Staff
at Alta Vista Regional Hospital

Alta Vista Regional Hospital welcomes Eileen Reardon, M.D., a board-certified OB/GYN who provides care for women at every age and stage of life. A skilled and experienced physician, Dr. Reardon provides comprehensive care that includes support for all types of births, family planning services, menopausal medicine, gynecological surgical services and more. She works closely with patients to give them individualized attention and education to help them make informed health decisions that are best for them. **Same- and next-day appointments often available. Call 505-454-4000.**



Rio Vista OB/GYN

Obstetrics & Gynecology

Rio Vista OB/GYN
104 Legion Drive, Suite C