

NUTRITION IS THE MAIN EVENT

THREE MEALS A DAY ANDSNACKS

Dividing the amount offood you eat into three meals and three snacks promotes better digestion andabsorption of nutrients. Healthy snacks can also be a source of important nutrients. Choose from yogurt, fresh fruit, low fat cheese and crackers, air-popped cornto name a few. Eating three meals a dayplus snacks helps to prevent over-eating at any one meal.

WHYEAT BREAKFAST?

Skippingbreakfast decreases the rate at which you "burn" calories for therest of the day. Any subsequent meals, however balanced they may be, will stillbe metabolized at a slower rate. Not eating protein at breakfast has a similareffect. Good sources of protein include meats, poultry, fish, eggs and dairyproducts. Vegetable proteins include soy products such as edamame, soy milk, andtofu. Nuts and seeds are other good alternatives.

DON'TSKIP LUNCH

Althoughmany of us eat on the run, it is still possible to eat a nutritious, low-calorielunch without too much fuss. Try salad bars (go easy on the dressings and cheese)or choose a lean meat or poultry sandwich accompanied by a vegetable salad. Skipping lunch can mean being very hungry around 3-4 P.M. which may cause youto reach for candy, cookies, etc.

SUPPER- THE SUPER MEAL

If you have eaten a high-protein breakfast and an equally well-balanced lunch, supper can provide approximately one third of the necessarycalories and nutrients you need to stayhealthy. Don't try to consume ALL your calories and nutrients for the day inone meal. The body is unable to effectively absorb large amounts of nutrients at one time. Therefore, a large meal at supper promotes obesity not health.

HOLIDAY MEALS

No one wants to feel left out around the dinner table. The best strategy is to taste everything. Use a tablespoon to sample a small amount of each dish. That way, you won't over eat but will still feel part of the party. Also, avoid being super hungry before going to to a holiday gathering. Try to have a small snack. For example, a cup of yogurt or a fruit. This will help you make better food choices.

AEROBIC EXERCISE

Aerobicexercise for 30 minutes, three times a week helps you lose weight by breakingdown body fat and also strengthens the heart. Choose brisk walking, swimming,bicycling,running or walking 10,000 steps daily. Choose a FitBit or your cellphone to help monitor the number of steps you take. Whatever you do, "Just Move". The results of regular exercise will astound you!

BEWARE OF FAD DIETS

There are no shortcuts to permanent weight loss. Many diets found in books, magazines newspapers or online are nutritionally unbalanced. They often lack protein which could cause muscle and hair loss, They may not supply enough carbohydrate which can lead to ketosis. Other nutrients lacking in "fad" diets include calcium (necessary to avoid osteoporosis), iron (to prevent anemia) and B 12 (for a healthy nervous system).

A REGISTERED DIETITIAN IS YOUR NUTRITION EXPERT

A Registered Dietitianhas been professionally-trained to develop diets that are individualized, flexible and easy-to follow. Although good eating habits should begin inchildhood, anyone can choose to change their diet at any time. It's never toolate. Start eating a well-balanced diettoday.

Don' tmiss the next nutrition newsletter. To receive future copies email:

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MEDITERRANEAN CHICKEN (makes 4 servings)

- 12 ounces chicken, boned, skinned
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 cups fresh mushrooms, sliced
- 3 medium tomatoes, sliced
- 2 medium green peppers, sliced
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, crushed
- 2 teaspoons oregano, dried
- 12 pitted black olives, sliced
- 1/4 cup fresh parsley, chopped
- 1 teaspoon red pepper (optional)

Prepare as follows:

Preheat oven to 375 degrees

Saute chicken in oil until lightly browned.

Remove chicken from pan and set aside.

Saute mushrooms, green pepper, onions, and tomatoes until tender.

Stir in garlic and pepper.

Arrange chicken and vegetable mixture in a medium-sized casserole.

Bake at 375 degrees for 30 minutes or until done.

Garnish with olives and parsley.

NUTRITIONAL ANALYSIS PER SERVING

Calories 247

Protein 26 g

Carbohydrate 13 g

Cholesterol 72 mg

Fat 9 g

Sodium 134 mg

Menu Suggestion:

Brown rice

Mixed green salad with vinegar & oil

Fresh fruit

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