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How To Navigate The Confusion Around Stretching

itness and health care professionals generally agree that stretching is an important component of an effective workout regimen. However, there remains some confusion as to when to stretch and which stretches athletes should perform to maintain optimal health and flexibility. For example, Harvard Medical School notes that stretching was once believed necessary to warm up muscles and prepare them for activity. However, the Mayo Clinic now notes that stretching should not be considered a warmup activity. Rather, the general consensus among health care professionals is that individuals should first warm up their bodies for five to 10 minutes with some light exercise, such as low-intensity walking or jogging. In addition, the Mayo Clinic notes that some research has suggested that pre-event stretching adversely affects athletes' performance. That may be a concern for competitive athletes and can add to the confusion non-competitive fitness enthusiasts have about the importance of stretching. Individuals who exercise to improve their overall health can stretch after their five- to 10-minute warmup and then again after completing their cardio and strength training. Competitive athletes can consult their coaches and trainers about when to stretch and which stretches to perform. When stretching, all people, including competitive athletes and

individuals who exercise as part of their health care routines, should focus on proper form. Numerous online tutorials indicate how to stretch the various muscle groups in a way that improves flexibility and decreases injury risk.



hanks to increasingly busy weekday schedules that have families running in different directions for work, school and extracurricular activities, weekends are an ideal time to recharge. Too often, however, family members retire to their respective rooms, devices in hand.

Kommando Tech says people spend an average of three hours and 15 minutes on their phones each day, with Americans spending 5.4 hours a day using phones. Those statistics do not include how much additional time is likely spent on devices like tablets or laptops.

Chances are phones are being used while lounging on the couch or bed, something that has negative health consequences for many children and adults. A sedentary lifestyle can lead to weight gain, loss of muscle strength, weak bones, diminished immune system response, and poor blood circulation, according to the health information site Medline. These fun activities can get kids and parents off the couch on weekends.



TAKE A FAMILY BIKE RIDE

Inflate those tires and tighten your helmet chin straps. A family bike ride is an ideal activity for the family because it is something that can be enjoyed by all age groups. Choose the pace and the terrain based on the age of the youngest and/or oldest rider (flat, easy-to-navigate paths for the very young or the elderly), and enjoy exercise in the great outdoors.

WASH THE CARS

It's a chore, but it's one that has the potential for lots of laughs along the way — and possibly a suds fight. Washing vehicles also is a great way to cool off when the weather is warm.

ENGAGE IN SPORTS TRAINING

Whether the children participate in organized sports or not, set up an obstacle course or fitness circuit in the backyard. Everyone takes turns going through the course. The family can spend time together as everyone gets beneficial exercise.

DO A WALKING TOUR

Educational attractions like museums, zoos, aquariums and arboretums are great to visit on weekends. The family will see new sights and learn important information about exhibits, all the while walking a few miles.

VISIT AN AMUSEMENT PARK

Research the nearest amusement park and take a road trip for the day. Hours will be spent walking around the park and going on thrilling rides. Consider discounted memberships or season passes if this is the type of activity the family plans to repeat.

CHECK OUT A DRIVING RANGE

Practice golf swings at a driving range or a virtual driving range. Everyone can compete to see whose drive is the longest.

The possibilities for physically active family engagement are endless and beneficial for the body in myriad ways.





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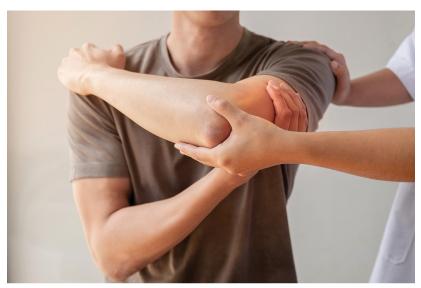
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What To Know About Nerve Injuries



The human body is a complex marvel. Various systems within the body work together to make life as humans know it possible, and though these systems are resilient, they're not invulnerable to injury.

The nervous system is a fascinating part of the human body that includes the brain, the spinal cord and nerves. This system controls much of what the body does, so it's no surprise that nerve injuries can have a profound effect on individuals' daily lives.

WHAT DO PERIPHERAL NERVES DO?

Johns Hopkins Medicine notes that peripheral nerves send messages from the brain and spinal cord to the rest of the body. This is done through a network of 43 pairs of motor and sensory nerves that control the functions of sensation, movement and motor coordination.

ARE PERIPHERAL NERVES VULNERABLE TO INJURY?

Peripheral nerves are fragile and easily damaged, so they are vulnerable to injury. Serious injury or trauma may require surgery, and the grade of severity, which can be determined using the Sunderland scale, will help doctors determine a treatment plan. The Mayo Clinic emphasizes the importance of seeking immediate treatment for peripheral nerve injuries, as doing so can prevent complications and permanent nerve damage.

WHAT CAUSES PERIPHERAL NERVE INJURIES?

Johns Hopkins Medicine indicates that peripheral nerve injuries can occur after suffering a laceration (a cut or tear in the nerve tissue), severe bruising, stretching, electrical injury, or drug injection injury. Gunshot wounds also can cause peripheral nerve injuries.

WHAR ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF PERIPHERAL NERVE INJURIES?

The Mayo Clinic notes that symptoms of peripheral nerve injuries, including pain, range from mild to severe. Severe symptoms can seriously limit individuals' ability to perform and engage in daily activities.

Symptoms differ depending on which nerve fibers are affected. Motor nerves reg-

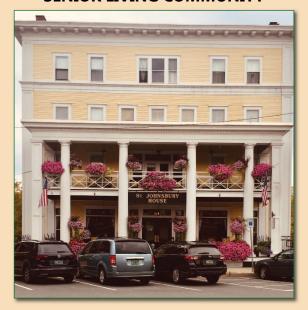


ulate all the muscles under conscious control. helping people to walk, speak and hold objects. Sensory nerves relay information about touch, temperature and pain, while autonomic nerves regulate activities that are not consciously controlled, such as breathing, heart function and digestion. Since these functions are so different, it's no surprise that injuries to each type of nerve produce different symptoms.

- · Motor nerves: Muscle weakness, uncontrollable muscle twitching and painful cramps are characteristics of motor nerve injuries.
- Sensory nerves: Sensory nerve injury symptoms may include numbness, tingling in the hands or feet and difficulty sensing pain or changes in temperature. Individuals also may experience difficulty walking, maintaining their balance with their eyes closed or fastening buttons.
- Autonomic nerves: Excessive sweating, changes in blood pressure, an inability to tolerate heat, and gastrointestinal issues are potential indicators of autonomic nerve injuries.

Peripheral nerve injuries can adversely affect quality of life. But reporting symptoms early can help doctors devise treatment plans to minimize pain and reduce risk for permanent damage.

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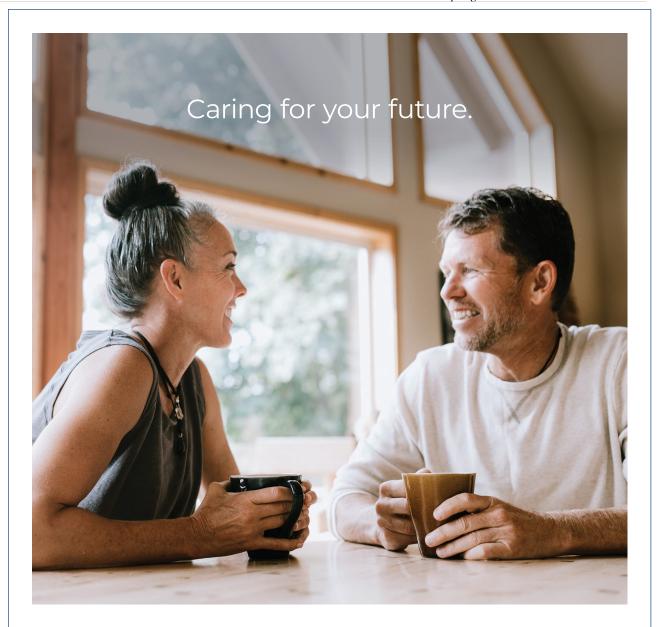
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Strategies To Lose Weight Safely

The struggle millions of individuals experience in regard to maintaining a healthy weight has led public health agencies to characterize overweight and obesity as a major public health crisis. According to the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, nearly one in three adults in the United States are overweight, while more than 40 percent are considered obese. Data from Statistics Canada indicates individuals also are struggling with their weight in Canada, where nearly 27 percent of adults can be classified as obese and more than 36 percent are classified as overweight.

With so many adults in North America classified as overweight or obese, it's no wonder that fad diets and additional programs to lose weight are so easy to find. Individuals who are overweight or obese should aspire to lose weight, as doing so can lower their risk for various conditions, including some which can be deadly, such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes. But it's vital that individuals lose weight in a safe way that gives them the best chance to keep weight off. In recognition of that, the U.S. Department of Agriculture offers these tips to lose weight safely.

 Recognize what makes up a healthy weight loss program. Individuals have all sorts of options that promise to help them lose weight, but that doesn't mean each of those options is safe and/or effective. For example, the American Academy of Family Physicians notes that the typical fad diet is unhealthy and does not result in sustainable weight loss.

Some such diets can even be dangerous to your overall health. The USDA describes

healthy weight loss programs as those that consist of reasonable and realistic weight loss goals. A reduced-calorie, nutritionally-balanced eating plan is another feature of a healthy weight loss program. Such programs also should encourage routine physical activity and a plan to help people

change their behaviors so they can stay on track and meet their goals.

 Know what to expect out of a healthy meal. The USDA notes that calories, portion sizes and nutrition all combine to make a healthy meal. Avoid





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high-calorie meals by limiting portion sizes. The online health resource Verywell Fit offers a useful breakdown that can help people determine healthy portion sizes:

- 1 palm: a serving of protein
- · 1 fist: a serving of vegetables
- 1 thumb: a serving of
- 1 cupped hand: a serving of carbs

This breakdown can act as a guideline for individuals, who also can discuss appropriate portion sizes with their physicians or a licensed dietician.

• Change your lifestyle, not just your diet. A successful weight loss strategy will help individuals develop lifestyle habits that help them maintain healthy weights. Fad diets and other quick fixes only provide short-term weight loss, and the USDA urges individuals to avoid programs that they "go on" and "go off" at predetermined intervals. Long-term, healthy weight loss is achieved by changing one's lifestyle, which requires a permanent commitment to physical activity and healthy eating.

A significant percentage of adults in both the United States and Canada is considered overweight or obese.When attempting to lose weight, those individuals can look to a comprehensive approach rooted in healthy eating and routine exercise that can help them shed pounds and keep those pounds off for good.



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Strength training is a vital component of an effective exercise regimen. Guidelines from the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion recommend adults include moderate- to high-intensity strength training activities in their workout regimens at least twice per week.

Individuals with little weightlifting experience may not recognize the value of strength training, which is often associated with building as much muscle as possible. Though strength training helps build muscle, it's also a great way to burn fat. Muscle increases resting metabolic rate, which means individuals who engage in strength training will burn more fat during rest than they would if they did not include such exercise in their workout regimens. Stronger muscles also provide more support to bones and connective tissues, which reduces injury risk. That's an especially important benefit for aging men and women.

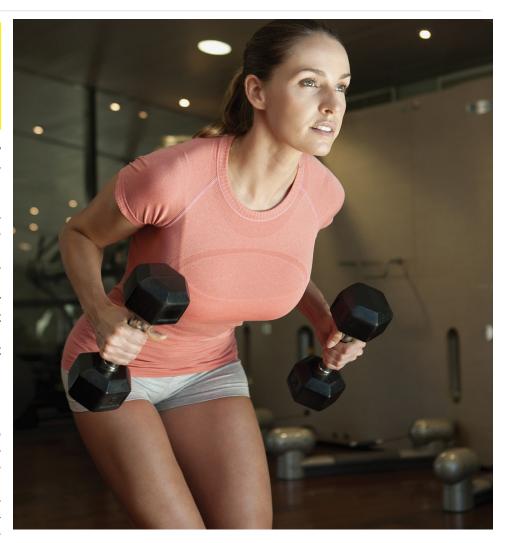
As valuable as strength training is, it's imperative that individuals approach weightlifting and other strenth-building exercises with a measure of caution. Improper form or going too hard too soon can increase injury risk. Beginners can heed these tips as they acclimate to strength training.

• Work with a personal trainer. Proper form is imperative to avoiding injury while strength training, and personal trainers can guide individuals through an assortment of exercises to make sure they're performing them correctly. If a long-term commitment to a personal trainer is beyond your financial means, find a trainer with limited commitment packages or one who lets clients pay on a session-by-session basis. Many fitness facilities include one or two free personal trainer consultations for new members, so take advantage of these opportunities when they're offered. If you plan to work out at home, ask a friend with

weightlifting experience to show you the correct form or watch online tutorials.

- · Begin with light weight. Beginners should avoid reaching for the heaviest dumbbells on the rack. Mastering form is vital at the beginning stages of a new strength training program, so go for lighter weights and gradually add weight as your body acclimates. If you find yourself completing a set without much effort, you can add a little more weight. But start with light weight and build from there.
- Warm up with some light cardio prior to lifting any weight. The fitness experts at Gold's Gym note that some light warmup prior to a strength training workout increases range of motion, decreases injury risk and contributes to more permanent change in muscles. Keep warmup sessions to between five and 10 minutes, opting for anything from a low-intensity jog on a treadmill or session on an elliptical. After warming up, perform some stretches that target the muscles you'll be focusing on during your workout. A trainer or online tutorial can be good sources of stretches to perform before working out a particular muscle group.
- Recognize the need for recovery. Rest and recovery is vital for any athlete, and that includes strength training beginners who are not yet lifting a lot of weight. Rest helps to build lean muscle tissue and prevents injuries. When planning a strength training regimen, ensure muscles get adequate rest by never working out the same muscle groups on consecutive days.

Strength training beginners should take things slowly and gradually change their routines as their bodies become more acclimated to exercises designed to make them stronger.



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nutritious diet can serve as a strong founda- cer. Studies also have linked fiber-rich foods Ation for a long, healthy life. Fruits and vegeta- with heart-friendly outcomes like reduced inbles are the building blocks of nutritious diets, as they're loaded with nutrients that serve the body in myriad ways.

- Calcium: Dark, leafy vegetables like kale, spinach, broccoli, and bok choi contain calcium. Calcium also is found fruits, including papaya and orange. According to the National Institutes of Health, the body utilizes calcium to build and maintain strong bones. In fact, the NIH notes that almost all calcium in the body is stored in the bones and teeth, where this vital mineral provides structure and hardness. Calcium also helps nerves carry messages from the brain to every part of the body.
- Dietary fiber: Dietary fiber is found in various fruits and vegetables. The Cleveland Clinic notes that berries like raspberries and blackberries contain significant amounts of dietary fiber. Pears, artichoke hearts and Brussels sprouts are packed with fiber as well. A high-fiber diet helps stabilize bowel movements and maintain bowel health, and Web-MD notes that studies have found a link between high-fiber diets and a lower risk for colorectal can-

flammation and lower cholesterol.

- Magnesium: The Mayo Clinic reports that magnesium supports muscle and nerve function and energy production. Individuals with chronically low levels of magnesium could be at increased risk for high blood pressure, heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and osteoporosis. The NIH notes that magnesium is widely distributed in plants. That means it can be found in a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, including spinach, edamame, black beans, bananas, and broccoli. Magnesium levels vary significantly in these foods, so anyone concerned about magnesium deficiency can speak with their physicians about the best and healthiest ways to include more in their diets.
- Vitamin A: According to the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, vitamin A stimulates the production and activity of white blood cells, helps maintain healthy cells that line the body's interior surfaces and regulates cell growth and division necessary for reproduction. Green, leafy vegetables are good sources of vitamin A, as are orange

and mangos.

• Potassium: The Dietary Guidelines for Americans established by the United States Department of Agriculture list beat greens, lima beans, swiss chard, baked potatoes (with skin), and yams as great sources of potassium. Kiwi, melon, cantaloupe, and bananas are additional sources of potassium. The T.H. Chan School of Public Health reports that the main role of potassium in the body is to help maintain normal levels of fluid inside the cells. Potassium also supports a normal blood pressure.



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kingdomlawyers.com ◆ FAX 802-748-4672 357 Western Avenue ◆ St. Johnsbury, Vermont \mathbf{M} any people recall the slogan "Milk, it does a body good." But as different health fads have emerged since that slogan was first uttered, including an increased availability of dairy alternatives, dairy has been somewhat pushed aside, leaving many people to question if it is a friend or foe.

According to Vasanti Malik, a nutrition research scientist with the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, dairy isn't necessary for maintaining optimal health for humans. However, it is one of the best and easiest ways to get ample amounts of vitamin D, protein and calcium, each of which keeps vital organs, muscles and bones functioning properly. Here's a deeper look at dairy in the average diet.

WHAT IS DAIRY?

Dairy products consist of a variety of products that are from mammals, including cows, goats and sheep. These include milk, yogurt, cheese, kefir, ice cream, butter, ghee, cream, cream cheese, sour cream, whey products, and casein. Dairy products are often categorized as "regular," "whole," "reduced fat," "low-fat," or "skim." These characterizations indicate the fat content in a given item.

NUTRITIONAL BENEFITS OF DAIRY

Dairy products are nutrient-dense and great sources of protein, calcium and vitamins. Protein builds and repairs muscle tissue; carbohydrates in milk provide energy; and calcium and phosphorous can help strengthen bones and teeth. Vitamin D helps promote the absorption of calcium. Dairy also contains riboflavin, vitamin A, pantothenic



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acid, potassium and niacin. One eight-ounce serving of milk contains the recommended daily values of these nutrients based on guidelines from the U.S. Food & Drug Administration.

BONE HEALTH

Dairy protein and calcium may play critical roles in bone health and density, helping to reduce the risk for osteoporosis, states the Dairy Alliance. Eating and drinking foods rich in calcium may offset a possible proteincalcium loss that occurs with aging, thus protecting bone health.

HEART HEALTH BENEFITS

Some people avoid dairy because of perceptions that it is bad for cardiac health. A report presented at the 2018 Congress of the European Society of Cardiology that looked at 20 studies involving around 25,000 people found no association between the consumption of most dairy products (including whole fat varieties) and cardiovascular disease. The only exception was milk, but the results showed one would have to drink almost a liter of milk a day for a higher risk of cardiovascular disease. Still, the American Heart Association recommends adults choose fat-free or lowfat dairy products whenever possible. Also, a 2018 study published in the British Journal of Nutrition found men who ate plenty of fermented dairy products like yogurt and cheese had a smaller risk of coronary artery disease than men who ate less.

Additional benefits of dairy include a reduced risk of childhood obesity and an improvement in body composition and weight loss during energy restriction in adults, according to a 2016 report in the Journal of Food and Nutrition Research.

Dairy provides many health benefits. People concerned about their overall health should work recommended dairy servings into their daily diets.



eavy alcohol consumption is linked to a greater risk for a variety of health conditions. According to the National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence, Inc., 75 percent of esophageal cancers are attributable to chronic excessive alcohol consumption. Such consumption also is linked to a 10 percent increase in a woman's risk for breast cancer, while heavy chronic drinking has been connected to 36 percent of primary liver cancer cases.



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7 Lifestyle Choices To Reduce Cancer Risk

o date there is no definitive cure for cancer, nor **GET ENOUGH SLEEP** any one preventative treatment. But individuals should not resign themselves to the fact that cancer is inevitable. There are plenty of lifestyle modifications that can go a long way toward reducing cancer risk. Here's a deeper look at some of the more effective.

AVOID TOBACCO

Not only does smoking cause between 80 and 90 percent of lung cancer deaths, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it also contributes to many other forms of the disease, including cancers of the pancreas, liver, bladder, and cervix. Quitting smoking and avoiding secondhand smoke can reduce cancer risk.

EXERCISE REGULARLY

Physical activity can lower estrogen levels, reduce levels of insulin in the blood, help a person lose weight, and reduce inflammation — all factors that contribute to the formation of cancer. Experts recommend 150 minutes of moderate-intensity or 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity exercise a week.

EAT HEALTHY FOODS

The American Institute for Cancer Research indicates certain minerals, vitamins and phytochemicals can produce anti-cancer effects. Many foods, namely fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and legumes, can boost health and contribute to lower cancer risk.

AVOID EXCESSIVE ALCOHOL CONSUMP-TION

Drinking alcohol regularly increases the risk of cancers to the mouth, voice box and throat, according to the CDC. Furthermore, alcohol consumption is a primary risk factor for liver cancer. By limiting alcohol consumption, individuals can reduce their cancer risk.

BE CAUTIOUS OF HEPATITIS C

Individuals should avoid behaviors that put them at risk of contracting hepatitis C, which causes inflammation of the liver. Hepatitis C can be contracted by receiving a piercing or tattoo in an unsanitary environment, through injecting or inhaling illicit drugs, through unsafe sex, or if you are a healthcare worker exposed to infected blood through an accidental needle prick.

APPLY SUNSCREEN

Protect the skin from exposure to ultraviolet rays from the sun and tanning beds, as skin cancer is the most common form of the disease in the United States. Simply reducing exposure can help prevent skin cancers and other damage. This includes wearing wide-brimmed hats, applying sunscreen with an SPF of at least 30, avoiding the sun between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., and wearing sun-protective clothing. Tanning beds are not safer for the skin than being out in the sun, so they should be avoided.

The importance of sleep to overall health is easily overlooked. Lancaster General Health says, while there is no specific data for sleep on cancer prevention, sleep deprivation can lead to harmful behaviors, such as overeating, drinking too much alcohol or being too tired to exercise, each of which increases cancer risk.

Relatively easy lifestyle changes can go a long way toward reducing cancer risk.



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- Perform diagnostic evaluations of client needs and develop customized treatment plans.
- Educate staff and clients on stress and trauma coping mechanisms.
- Provide individuals with the tools, skills, resources, and coaching they need to reach personal goals.
- Monitor client progress and modify their treatment plans as needed.
- Coordinate with the medical team, extended healthcare system, and community outreach programs to provide clients with needed services.
- Participate and lead efforts to promote an integrative model of care within the
- Offer support with case management if needed as well as advance care planning.
- Participate and lead group therapy as needed.



Requirements: LICSW, Master's Degree and at least 2 years of supervised clinical social work.

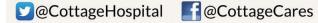
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