



The Oregon Clinic - Gastroenterology

Low Fiber/Low Residue Diet

Purpose

Dietary fiber is the indigestible part of plants that maintains the structure of the plant. Dietary fiber includes cellulose, hemicellulose, polysaccharides, pectins, gums, mucilages, and lignins. Although they are chemically unrelated, they all resist digestion by the human body. It is this resistance that makes these fibers important in both the normal functioning and in disorders of the large intestine or colon.

In certain medical conditions, it is important to restrict fiber. These include acute or subacute diverticulitis, and the acute phases of certain inflammatory conditions of the bowel – ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease. After some types of intestinal surgery, a low fiber, low residue diet may be used as a transition to a regular diet. A low fiber diet is also used for a period of time after a colostomy or ileostomy is performed.

Nutrition Facts

Depending upon individual food selection, the Low Fiber, Low Residue Diet is adequate in all nutrients (National Research Council's Recommended Dietary Allowance). If the diet must be strict and followed over a long period of time, the intake of fruits and vegetables may not be adequate; and/or on a low residue diet, there may not be enough calcium included. In these cases, a multi-vitamin supplement or liquid nutritional supplement may be needed. Please review the following menu for more information.

Special Considerations

If a low fiber or low residue diet results in abdominal cramps or discomfort, notify the dietitian or physician immediately.

Sample Menu

Food Groups		
Group	Recommend	Avoid
Milk & milk	all milk products	Low Residue Diet only 2

<i>products (2 or more cups daily)</i>		cups daily of all milk products
<i>Vegetables (3 or more servings daily)</i>	lettuce; vegetable juice without pulp; the following cooked vegetables: yellow squash (without seeds), green beans, wax beans, spinach, pumpkin, eggplant, potatoes, without skin, asparagus, beets, carrots	vegetable juices with pulp, raw vegetables except lettuce, cooked vegetables not on Recommend list
<i>Fruits (2 or more servings daily)</i>	fruit-juices without pulp, canned fruit except pineapple, ripe bananas, melons	fruit-juices with pulp, canned pineapple, fresh fruit except those on Recommend list, prunes, prune juice, dried fruit, jam, marmalade
<i>Starches-Bread & grains (4 or more servings daily)</i>	bread and cereals made from refined flours, pasta, white rice	whole-grain breads, cereals, rice, pasta; bran cereal; oatmeal
<i>Meat or meat substitutes (5 to 6 oz daily)</i>	meat, poultry, eggs, seafood	chunky peanut butter, nuts, seeds, dried beans, dried peas
<i>Fats and oils (servings depend on caloric needs)</i>	all oils, margarine, butter	coconut
<i>Sweets and desserts (servings depend on caloric needs)</i>	all not on Avoid list	desserts containing nuts, coconut
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	all not on Avoid list	popcorn, pickles, horseradich, relish

Sample Menu

Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
-----------	-------	--------

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • orange juice 1/2 cup • cornflakes 1 cup • poached egg • white toast 1 slice • margarine 1 tsp • jelly 1 Tbsp • skim milk 1 cup • coffee 3/4 cup • sugar 1 tsp • non-dairy creamer • salt/pepper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fish 3 oz • mashed potatoes 1/2 cup • cooked green beans 1/2 cup • white bread 1 slice • margarine 1 tsp • jelly 1 Tbsp • applesauce 1/2 cup • coffee 3/4 cup • sugar 1 tsp • non-dairy creamer • salt/pepper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • chicken breast 3 oz • medium baked potato without skin • cooked carrots 1/2 cup • white bread 1 slice • margarine 1 tsp • jelly 1 Tbsp • canned peaches 1/2 cup • skim milk 1/2 cup • coffee 3/4 cup • sugar 1 tsp • non-dairy creamer • salt/pepper
---	---	---

This Sample Diet Provides the Following

<i>Calories</i>	1576	<i>Fat</i>	45 gm
<i>Protein</i>	89 gm	<i>Sodium</i>	2817 mg
<i>Carbohydrates</i>	215 gm	<i>Potassium</i>	3510 mg

This material does not cover all information and is not intended as a substitute for professional care. Please consult with your physician on any matters regarding your health.