

6-Food Elimination for Eosinophilic Esophagitis

Research shows a strong connection between food allergies and eosinophilic esophagitis (EOE). These six foods are most commonly associated with this allergic response: **dairy, wheat, soy, eggs, nuts, and seafood/shellfish.**

Unfortunately, there is no accurate test to identify food allergies connected with EOE. Elimination diets help to identify food allergies and improve your condition.

How to do an elimination diet

Step 1. Plan

Work with your healthcare team to identify which foods might be causing symptoms. Plan a time to start the diet when you know you can be successful. Prepare yourself by having the foods you will need on hand and prep as much as possible in advance.

Step 2. Eliminate

Remove all 6 foods from your diet for **4 weeks** without any exceptions. It is important to read food labels and use caution when dining out, since you have less control over the ingredients in restaurants.

Step 3. Challenge

If your symptoms have not improved after 4 weeks, follow up with your health care provider.

If your symptoms have improved, start the challenge phase with **ONE** of the foods you stopped eating at a time. As you do this, write down your symptoms.

Symptoms of a failed food challenge may range from mild reflux, or pains, to severe cramps, vomiting, or difficulty swallowing – even food impaction. Any of these changes after reintroducing a food should be written down and considered a reaction. It is common for EOE food reactions to be delayed for hours or even days from exposure.

Challenge Instructions:

1. Introduce **ONE** new food per week. (Dairy, wheat, soy, eggs, nuts, **or** seafood/shellfish)
2. Add 1 serving of the food in the morning. (Example: glass of milk **or** 1 slice of bread)
3. If you don't notice any symptoms, eat 2 larger portions in the afternoon and evening.
4. Over the next 3 days, continue to eat at least 1 serving of the food per day.
5. If the food does not cause symptoms, it is considered safe.
6. Wait to add the safe food back into your diet until the other food challenges are complete.

Dairy Elimination

Foods to avoid	What to eat	Brand Examples
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milk (cow, goat, and sheep) • Buttermilk • Condensed milk • Cream/artificial cream • Evaporated milk • Butter, butter oil • Ghee • Margarine • Cheese • Ice Cream • Yogurt • Sour Cream • Some mayonnaise and some salad creams <p>Ingredients that contain dairy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Casein (curds), Hydrolyzed casein • Caseinates, calcium or sodium caseinate • Lactoglobulin • Lactoalbumin • Lactose • Milk powder • Milk protein • Milk sugar • Milk solids, Non-fat milk solids • Modified milk • Whey, Whey solids, Hydrolyzed whey, Hydrolyzed whey protein, Whey protein 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coconut, hemp, oat, almond, or rice milk • Dairy-free yogurts • Dairy-free cheeses • Coconut or cashew ice cream • Hemp products • Coconut milk products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milk: Pacific Foods, So Delicious, Rice Dream, Blue Diamond • Yogurt: Coconut Dream, Good KARMA, So Delicious yogurts • Cheese: Daiya • Frozen Dessert: Haagen-Dazs Non-Dairy, So Delicious, Coconut Bliss, Ben & Jerry's Non-Dairy • Butter: Earth Balance, Smart Balance

Wheat Elimination

Foods to avoid	What to eat	Brand Examples
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bran • Bulger • Couscous • Durum • Einkorn • Emmer • Farina • Farro • Flour (wheat – all purpose, cake, enriched, graham, pastry) • Gluten • Hydrolyzed wheat protein • Kamut • Semolina • Spelt • Wheat (berries, bran, grass, malt, starch) <p>Ingredients may contain wheat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artificial/natural flavoring • Caramel color • Dextrin • Food starch*, gelatinized starch, • Glucose syrup • Hydrolyzed or textured vegetable protein • Maltodextrin • Monosodium glutamate • Oats • Soy sauce, shoyu, teriyaki • Beer • Bouillon cubes • Brown rice syrup • Candy, Licorice • Deli meats, hot dogs, sausage, imitation fish • Communion wafers • French Fries • Gravy, sauces, soups • Seitan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gluten-free foods <p>Wheat substitutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amaranth • Arrowroot • Barley • Beans / legumes • Buckwheat • Corn • Oats (gluten-free) • Potato • Quinoa • Rice • Rye • Tapioca 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grains: Bob's Red Mill • Breads: Canyon Bakehouse, Udi's, Food for Life, New Cascadia Traditional • Cereals: Nature's Path, Arrowhead Mills, GF Chex • Crackers: Blue Diamond Nut Thins (contain dairy), Mary's Gone Crackers, Glutino • Pasta: Barilla, POW • Wraps: Rudi's, Mission

Egg Elimination

Foods to avoid	What to eat	Brand Examples
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eggs (yolks, whites, dried, powdered, and solids) • Egg substitutes (e.g. EggBeaters) • Eggnog • Egg noodles • Egg sauces (hollandaise, bernaïse) • Baked goods (bagels, some breads, cookies, cakes, donuts, muffins, pancakes, waffles) • Batters • Caesar dressing • Cream fillings • Custard-type desserts • Crepes • French toast • Frostings (some) • Ice cream (some) • Malted milk mixes (Ovaltine) • Mayonnaise • Meatloaf, meatballs, sausages, bologna • Meringue • Mousse • Pastas (fresh) • Puddings • Soups (noodle/consume, egg drop, wonton) • Tartar sauce <p>Ingredients may contain egg:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albumin • Binder • Coagulant • Gobulin • Lecithin (unless soy) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg-free foods <p>Egg substitutes (1 egg):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ¼ cup applesauce • ¼ cup mashed banana • 1 Tbsp ground flax + 3 Tbsp water • 1 tsp baking soda + 1 Tbsp vinegar • 2 Tbsp arrowroot powder + 3 Tbsp water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EnerG egg replacer • OrgraN • Bob’s Red Mill Gluten Free Vegan Egg Replacer

Soy Elimination

Foods to avoid	What to eat	Brand Examples
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edamame • Miso • Natto • Shoyu • Soy (soy cheese, soy flour, soy ice-cream, soy milk, soy nuts, soy yogurts) • Soy sauce, tamari • Soya • Tempeh • Textured Vegetable Protein (TVP) • Tofu, bean curd 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soy sauce substitute, Coconut Aminos • Soy lecithin is OK • Refined soybean oil is OK 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coconut Secret Coconut Aminos (soy sauce substitute)

Peanuts and Tree Nut Elimination

Foods to avoid	What to eat	Brand Examples
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All tree nuts (walnut, almond, hazelnut, cashew, pistachio, Brazil nut) • Nut butters • Natural nut extract • Nut meal, past, meat, pieces • Cold pressed, expeller or extruded peanut or tree nut oils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macadamia and pine nuts are usually tolerated • Coconut and coconut products • Pumpkin, sesame and sunflower seeds • Sunflower seed spread • Heat-pressed peanut oil is OK 	<p>Peanut butter alternatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SunButter • Once Again Organic Sunflower Seed Butter • 88 Acres • Don't Go Nuts Spread <p>Bars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoy Life • go Raw • Made Good • 88 Acres

Fish & Shellfish Elimination

Foods to avoid	What to eat	Brand Examples
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All fish • All crustacea (shrimp, crab, lobster) • All mollusks (oysters, clams, mussels, scallops) <p>Remember that finned fish and shellfish are not related. Being allergic to one does not mean that you must avoid both.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macadamia and pine nuts are usually tolerated • Coconut and coconut products • Pumpkin, sesame and sunflower seeds • Sunflower seed spread • Heat-pressed peanut oil is OK 	<p>Peanut butter alternatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SunButter • Once Again Organic Sunflower Seed Butter • 88 Acres • Don't Go Nuts Spread <p>Bars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoy Life • go Raw • Made Good • 88 Acres

Reading a Food Label

Dairy Example:

There are three ways dairy may be indicated on a label. See examples below:

1. Within ingredient list in parenthesis ()
 - INGREDIENTS: CASEIN (MILK), DIPOTASSIUM PHOSPHATE, NATURAL FLAVOR
2. Within ingredient list in **BOLD**.
 - INGREDIENTS: **MILK** CASEIN, DIPOTASSIUM PHOSPHATE, NATURAL FLAVOR
3. As a separate statement after the ingredient list. See example below:
 - INGREDIENTS: CASEIN, DIPOTASSIUM PHOSPHATE, NATURAL FLAVOR
CONTAINS: MILK

Sample Menus: 6-Food Elimination Diet

	Day 1	Day 2
Breakfast	Breakfast sausage or ham with 1 banana or apple and 2 Tbsp sunflower seed butter	Smoothie: unsweetened coconut or hemp milk, banana, blueberries, greens, pea or collagen protein powder
Lunch	Green salad with chicken, black beans, salsa, and avocado	Chicken salad, lettuce, GF wrap, side of olives and grapes
Dinner	Pot roast with potatoes, carrots, and green beans	BBQ chicken, sweet potato, and slaw or side salad
Snack	GF crackers with avocado and salsa	Veggie sticks with hummus Fruit with sunflower seed butter

	Day 3	Day 4
Breakfast	GF Oatmeal (prepared with milk alternative) blueberries, hemp seeds Coffee (w/coconut creamer)	Allergen free waffle with 100% pure maple syrup, berries Milk alternative
Lunch	Rice with beans, grilled vegetables, GF corn chips, lettuce, salsa, cheese substitute	GF wrap with chicken, vegan mayonnaise, avocado slices
Dinner	Grilled pork chop, GF pasta with vegetables Baked apple with cinnamon	Beef tenderloin, rice, olive oil, steamed broccoli Orange
Snack	Allergen free pretzels and hummus Coconut milk ice cream	Seed mixture with allergen free chocolate Mini rice cakes with sunflower seed butter

Resources

American Academy of Allergy Asthma & Immunology

<https://www.aaaai.org/conditions-and-treatments/related-conditions/eosinophilic-esophagitis>

American Partnership for Eosinophilic Disorders

<https://apfed.org/resources/for-healthcare-providers-and-researchers/patient-handouts/>

American College of Gastroenterology: <http://patients.gi.org/topics/eosinophilic-esophagitis/>