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CLINIC STAFF

Nursing: Sinead, Karen, Cheryl, Fiona, Roz, Halina and Anna

Reception: Ellen, Janet, Virginia, Kirsten, Sue, Julie, Michele, Rachel and Nicky

Practice Manager: Maria

SURGERY HOURS AND SERVICES

Consultations are by appointment.

Monday to Thursday

8.00am-1pm 2pm-6pm

Friday

8.00am-1pm 2pm-5pm

Saturday

8.30am-11.30am

GP After Hours – Mount Lawley

Ph 9370 4200

Monday to Friday 7pm-11pm

Saturday 2pm-10pm

Sunday and Pub Hols 10am-10pm

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR HOURS

Thursday, 24/12/2020 – **Open 8am to 3pm**

Christmas Day (Friday) – Closed

Boxing Day (Saturday) – Closed

Monday, 28/12/2020 – Closed

Tuesday, 29/12/2020 – Open 8am to 6pm

Wednesday, 30/12/2020 – Open 8am to 6pm

Thursday, 31/12/2020 – **Open 8am to 3pm**

New Year's Day (Friday) – Closed

Saturday 2/1/2021 – Open 8.30am to 11.30am

For all emergencies please present to St John of God Midland Public Hospital, 1 Clayton St, Midland Ph 9462 4000.

Urgent medical problems are always seen on the same day.

For Home Visits, please telephone the surgery as early as possible after 8.15am.

For After Hours emergency medical problems Monday-Saturday, please call 9298 8555 up until 11pm for the practice duty doctor.

YOUR DOCTOR

DECEMBER 2020

FREE!

This month we talk about...



**TAKING CARE OF
STRESS LEVELS**



**SWEATY
ISSUES**



**DECEMBEARD
& BOWEL CANCER**



**SUMMER SKIN
CONDITIONS**

The three 'omegas'

The omega fatty acids are essential nutrients which we need to maintain good health. They're unsaturated fats, and are obtained through our diet.

Why aren't they numbered in order? They're numbered according to the placement of double bonds within their structure – the number is a part of their chemical description.

3

Omega-3 plays a variety of roles in the body, and is associated with brain development, heart health, bone and joint health. Omega-3 has been shown to help slow memory decline in people with dementia, improve mental health, and promote a healthy heart by reducing LDL ('bad') cholesterol.

Our bodies can't produce omega-3, so you need to obtain it from your diet; however it's thought that most people following a standard Western diet are low in this nutrient. Ensuring adequate omega-3 intake throughout pregnancy is also essential for the baby's brain development.

6

Omega-6 also needs to be obtained from your food, however most people's intake is actually higher than it needs to be from a Western diet. Omega-6 is certainly essential, but can begin to cause problems if not part of a healthy balanced diet incorporating adequate levels of omega-3. Getting the ratio of Omega-3 to Omega-6 seems to be important, as a high level of Omega-6

relative to Omega-3 can contribute to inflammatory conditions. Omega-6 is found in most oils, meats, dairy products, eggs, cereals, and processed foods.

9

Omega-9, like omega-6, is common in most people's diets, and is one of the nutrients created within our body. It's found in almost all oils and nuts, and it would be very rare to have an inadequate intake.

BEST SOURCES OF OMEGA-3, -6, & -9

As omega-6 and -9 are already abundant in most people's diets, ensuring adequate omega-3 intake is usually the most important goal. The best dietary source of omega-3 is oily fish, and it can also be found in walnuts, flaxseeds, and chia seeds. The term 'oily fish' includes mackerel, tuna, sardines, and salmon, which are all an excellent addition to a healthy diet.

Omega-3 supplements may be useful, particularly for people following strict vegetarian or vegan diets. Supplements should be high quality, and only taken in addition to a healthy and varied diet, as the wide range of nutrients found in the diet cannot be properly replicated by pills. Consult a health professional if you are considering supplements.

The World Health Organisation recommends eating two portions of oily fish per week, not only for its omega-3 content but also for vitamins A, D, and B, its lean protein content, and a range of other minerals and essential nutrients.

Smoked salmon appetisers

These bite-sized appetisers are so easy to make, and look stylish for any occasion.

INGREDIENTS

- 100-150 grams smoked salmon
- Dense dark rye bread or pumpernickel (about 6 slices)
- 200 grams cream cheese
- 1 medium avocado
- Zest of 1 lemon
- 1 Tbsp lemon juice
- 1 bunch of dill, to garnish

DIRECTIONS

1. Using a small round biscuit cutter, cut out 20-24 circles from the rye bread.
2. Beat the cream cheese, avocado, lemon juice and half the zest together.
3. Spread the cream cheese filling on top of each of the rye bread circles.
4. Top with a piece of smoked salmon.
5. Garnish with a sprig of fresh dill and sprinkle over the rest of the zest.

Optional garnishes

Thinly slivers of radish or lemon, capers, strips of red pepper, ground black pepper.



Common summer skin conditions

Our summers are a beautiful time of year, with people taking the chance to enjoy the sunshine. However, summer can be particularly hard on our skin, when harsh sun, heat, and stinging insects abound.

- **Sunburn:** sometimes even with the best intentions, the sun can cause serious damage. Sunburn can be incredibly painful, with blistering and peeling. Most cases of mild sunburn can be managed at home with simple painkillers, gentle cooling, and soothing lotions.
- **Prickly heat or heat rash:** heat rash is caused by blocked sweat glands and irritated skin. It usually looks like red areas with lots of tiny pimples, and is found in the places that get the most hot and sweaty. It can be uncomfortable but should clear up on its own. Keep the skin cool, clean and dry, and prevent chaffing.
- **Fungal infections:** skin infections like candida thrive in moist, warm creases in the skin. Sweaty areas around the groin, under breasts, between the toes, or in any folds of skin can become very sore and itchy. Treatment will be based on the type of infection and which part of the body is affected.
- **Plants and insects:** some summer plants can irritate the skin. Stinging nettles and giant hogweed are particular culprits. Summer is also the season for wasps and other biting, stinging insects.

The best way to prevent summer skin problems is to avoid the things that cause them – staying out of the sun or covering up, staying clean and dry and managing sweat, avoiding insect bites and stinging plants, and carefully managing rashes and infections.

Unexplained severe rashes or rashes accompanied by other symptoms of illness should always be checked out by a doctor.

Taking care of your stress levels

While short term stress is a natural response to certain situations, continuous stress and unhealthy coping strategies can become a serious problem.

Anything that causes stress is known as a 'stressor' – some of the most common ones include:

- **Financial worries:** this can incorporate a huge variety of troubling situations, such as worrying about loss of employment and income, or simply not making ends meet. Financial worries are considered the number one cause of stress in Australia.
- **Health concerns:** about yourself or others. Stress can make the symptoms of physical illnesses worse, creating a spiral of health anxiety. Living through the Covid-19 global health crisis has caused untold stress, anxiety, and grief to millions of people around the world.
- **Work stress:** there are plenty of ways a workplace can cause stress and anxiety; from job pressure to difficult interactions with colleagues or clients.
- **Negative life events:** some of the most serious, such as the death of a loved one, can combine a number of stressors – finances, health, anxiety, and grief, with severe and complex effects on health and wellbeing.

- **Positive life events:** even exciting changes, like a promotion, a new home, or a much-desired addition to the family can feel stressful.

WHEN IS STRESS A PROBLEM?

Stress is unhealthy when it impacts on your ability to go about your life as normal, feels unmanageable, prevents you from enjoying the things you'd normally enjoy, and when it causes physical and mental problems.

Stress can cause emotional problems such as anxiety, depression, or irritability. It can also cause very real physical symptoms such as heart palpitations, upset stomach, and fatigue.

DEALING WITH STRESS

If stress has a cause that can be tackled with practical actions, that's a great place to start – making positive, simple steps can be helpful.

Sometimes, people find learning coping strategies work – there are numerous resources for meditation and mindfulness exercises to help deal with stress and anxiety.

Some coping strategies are unhealthy, and have the potential to cause further harm. Smoking, drinking alcohol, drugs, or unhealthy comfort-eating can all cause serious long-term harm, and are unlikely to help with the underlying stress.

If you're struggling with stress, anxiety, or feel unable to cope, it's important to seek professional advice.



CROSSWORD CORNER

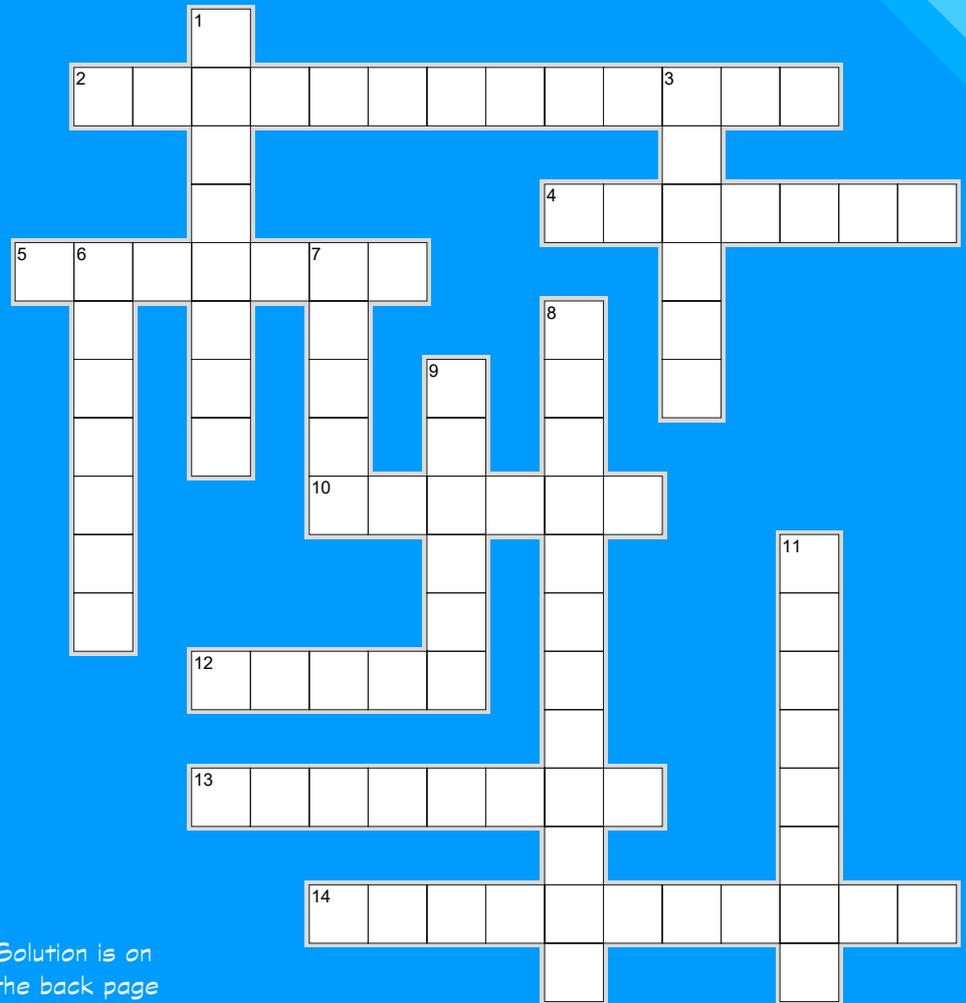
Answers can be found in this edition of Your Doctor

ACROSS

2. Medical term for excessive sweating
4. Onions, garlic and cabbage contain this element
5. Type of sweat gland found all over the body
10. Small raised areas or wart-like lumps
12. One of the ways we regulate our body temperature
13. A term for loss of thinking, remembering, and reasoning skills.
14. Medical examination of the colon using a long flexible instrument

DOWN

1. Type of sweat gland found where we have the most body hair
3. Oily fish which is a good source of omega-3
6. Fungal skin infection
7. National Bowel Cancer Screening Program
8. Racing, pounding, fluttering or skipping heartbeat
9. Nut that is a source of omega-3 and omega-9
11. Anything that causes stress



Solution is on the back page

Bowel Cancer

Bowel cancer is the name for cancers that begin in the large intestine or rectum. Australia has one of the highest rates of bowel cancer in the world.

Most bowel cancers begin as 'polyps' in the bowel – small raised areas or wart-like lumps. Polyps can take years to turn into cancers, and most polyps never do become cancerous. They can often be easily removed before they have a chance to cause any problems. Untreated, bowel cancer can spread throughout the body and become difficult to treat effectively.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Some of the earliest stages of bowel cancer may have no symptoms, which is why many countries have adopted public health screening programs to try and detect any early signs of cancer before it becomes serious.

One of the first symptoms people often notice with bowel cancer is an unexplained change in their bowel habits. Diarrhoea or constipation that lasts more than a few days and has no known cause can be a concern.

Sometimes people notice changes in the way their stool looks, and may pass some blood or mucous when they move their bowels. People also often report feeling like they still need to go to the toilet after a bowel movement.

Cancer, like many other illnesses, can have general symptoms like excessive tiredness, unexplained weight loss, and pain. It's important to see a healthcare professional as soon as possible for proper investigations, diagnosis, and treatment.

'Decembeard' encourages men to grow a beard in December to raise awareness of bowel cancer

If there is any blood within the stool, which could be a sign of a pre-cancerous or cancerous area of the bowel. If blood is detected, further testing – usually a colonoscopy – is offered.

BOWEL CANCER SCREENING

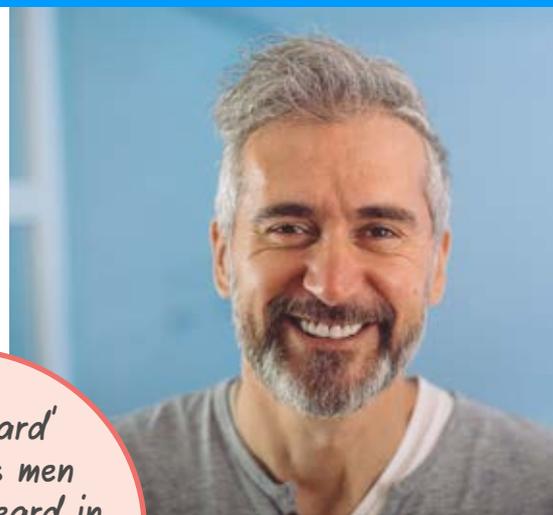
The National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (NBCSP) is an initiative designed to identify possible signs of bowel cancer early, even before symptoms begin. This gives people the best chance of early treatment and a good result. The initial test is safe and simple, and it saves lives.

The test kit is used at home to take a small stool sample for testing. The test can show

PREVENTING BOWEL CANCER

Following a healthy lifestyle is the best way to help prevent your risk of bowel cancer. This means eating a good diet high in fibre, vegetables and fruit, and low in processed meat. Maintaining a healthy weight, low alcohol intake, and not smoking are also important. Being aware of symptoms and taking cancer screening tests when recommended is the best way to catch cancer early.

"Around 90% of bowel cancer cases are cured if detected early"



Sweaty issues

An old saying goes, 'horses sweat, gentlemen perspire, and ladies glow'. It turns out though, that those kinds of expectations could actually be unhealthy. We all sweat, and for good reasons.

WHY DO WE SWEAT?

The main reason we sweat is to regulate our body temperature. When we're too hot; whether from environment, exercise, stress, or hormones, we sweat. Sweat evaporates from our skin and we cool down.

Sweat comes from around three million tiny glands all over our bodies. There are two main types of sweat gland:

- **Eccrine sweat glands** are found all over the body, and they produce the majority of our sweat. They produce mainly water, with a little of the natural proteins, salts, and other electrolytes in the body. These are what make sweat taste a little salty.
- **Apocrine sweat glands** tend to be found in the places we have the most body hair; mostly around the groin and armpits. The sweat produced by apocrine glands is oilier and tends to become smellier.

WHY DOES SWEAT SMELL SO... SWEATY?

Sweat is mainly water, so doesn't have very much odour of its own. It does, however, create a nice moist, warm environment for the bacteria that lives on our skin, and this is what produces that characteristic sweaty smell.

Everyone has natural variations in hormone levels and skin bacteria which affect the kind of smell produced. Foods high in sulphur such as onions, garlic, and cabbage seem to make sweat smell more unpleasant. Experiments where volunteers sniffed pads from each other's armpits found that people who ate red meat regularly smelled worse than those who didn't eat any red meat.

WHEN IS SWEATING A PROBLEM?

If the amount of sweat you produce means you're changing your clothes several times a day and normal antiperspirant deodorants aren't working, then it could be a problem. Excessive sweating is known as hyperhidrosis. If you're distressed or embarrassed by how much you sweat, or if you're experiencing skin problems caused by moisture, see a doctor for advice.

REPEAT SCRIPTS

Repeat prescriptions will not be issued without a prior consultation. Patients seeking repeat prescriptions must see their doctor. This is to ensure proper management.

REFERRALS

A re-referral may be requested by phone. New referrals require that the patient be seen by the doctor. Referrals cannot be back-dated. Referrals are current for 12 months, please check with your specialist to see if your referral is still current.

ETHICS

This practice abides by the AMA Code of Ethics at all times. A copy of the code is available on request.

LONG CONSULTATIONS

Long consultations are available on request for all Doctors if required. **Dr F Kotai** requires 60 mins for an Aviation medical. All Health Assessments require 30 mins. Failure to attend appointments will attract a fee of \$30.00 for a standard consultation or \$50.00 for a long consultation.

ONLINE APPOINTMENTS

Online appointments can be made any time of the day at www.gfmc.com.au click on "Make a booking."

BILLING

We are a private practice and payment is made on the day. A discount of \$5.00 is given for payment on the day. We can claim your rebate immediately from Medicare using Easyclaim onto your cheque or savings card or Online Claiming where Medicare deposits direct to your bank account within 48 hrs. Questions related to fees can be dealt with by the receptionist. If you have difficulty paying your account, please feel free to discuss this matter with your doctor.

FEEDBACK

We would like to know of any concerns you may have about the care you receive. Please feel free to talk to the doctor or our Practice Manager. However, if you feel there is a matter you wish to take up outside, you can contact the Health and Disability Services Complaints Office (HaDSCO): GPO Box B61, Perth WA 6838. Tel: 9323 0600.

PHONE CALLS

Doctors in this practice may be contacted by phone during surgery hours. A message will be taken if the doctor is with another patient.

MISSED APPOINTMENTS

If you miss an appointment and fail to advise us at least 2 hours beforehand you will be charged a Failure to Attend Fee. This fee applies to everyone and cannot be claimed back at Medicare.

Your medical record is a confidential document. It is the policy of this practice to maintain security of personal health information at all times and to ensure that this information is only available to authorised members of staff.

Discuss your concerns with the doctor

It's a good idea to think about what you'd like to discuss before your visit. This form can help you organise your thoughts. After you make an appointment, take a minute to write down the doctor's name and appointment details. Then use this form to make a list of your concerns.

DOCTOR	DATE	TIME

1.
2.
3.
4.
NOTES:

CROSSWORD

SOLUTION

ACROSS: 2. HYPERHIDROSIS 4. SULPHUR 5. ECCRINE 10. POLYPS
 DOWN: 1. APOCRINE 3. SALMON 6. CANDIDA 7. NBCSP
 8. PALPITATIONS 9. WALNUT 11. STRESSOR

Disclaimer: The information provided in this newsletter is for educational purposes only, and is not intended as a substitute for sound health care advice. We are not liable for any adverse effects or consequences resulting from the use of any information, suggestions, or procedures presented. Always consult a qualified health care professional in all matters pertaining to your physical, emotional and mental health.

Our newsletter is free! Take a copy with you.