Sunday, June 21,-1998

# A piece of fruit will help boost your health Study after study shows that eating more fruit could help cut the risk of cancer,



help cut the risk of cancer, stroke and heart disease, The recommendation is to cat five servings of fruits and vegetables a day. So why has the amount of fruit consumption gone up only slightly in recent verse.

FLORINE

up only slightly in recent
years?

We're talking about deliclous, sweet fruits, not cod
liver oil!

Fruit ought to be considered an everyday pleasure and not a dreaded homework
assignment.

All fruit is good for you, but there are
definitely some fruits that are loaded with
more nutrients than others. And you may
be surprised to see which fruits rank in
the gold-medal category.

One of the best fruits is a guava. Guavas
are loaded with carotenoids (cancer-risk
reducers) and vitamin C. They also conclain potassium and fiber, but many people
have never even tasted a guava.

Never fear, there are plenty of other
fruits that are excellent sources of these
important nutrients.

Watermelon, grapefruit, kiwifruit,
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fruits that are excellent sources of these important nutrients. Watermelon, grapofruit, kiwifruit, papaya and cantaioupe are all rich in vitamin C, cardenoids and potassium. All of these except cantaloupe are fairly good sources of fiber as well.

Other common fruits that rank high on the healthy list are oranges, strawberries, apricots, raspberries, and honeydew melons. These are packed with vitamin C and many other important nutrients.

Dried apricots and dried peaches are also excellent sancks because they are tremendously concentrated with carotenoids and fiber, but unfortunately most of the vitamin C is depleted in the drying process. drying process.

You also need to be aware of the higher

calorie content with dried fruits

caloric content with dried truits.
One-quarter cup of dried apricots or
peaches has 100 calories compared with
either one large peach or four whole apricots which have only 70 calories.
If you're trying to lose weight and eat
healthy, you may be better off with the
fresh fruits because they will fill you up
faster with less calories than the dried
varieties.

nator's with less clustes than the direct varieties.
What I would call the "second-place finishers" include lots of common fruits as well as the canned variety. These fruits tend to have less in the way of cardenoids but are still rich in other vitamins and fibre.

fiber.

Canned apricots are one of the second-place finishers. In general, canned fruits are not as nutritious as their fresh courterparts because in most cases their fiber-rich peel has been removed in the canning process.

process.
Furthermore, canned fruits packed in heavy syrup are loaded with extra sugar and calories. Look for fruit canned in its own natural juices or water. Regardless, canned apricts are still quite nutritious because of their vitamin C, potassium and fibra contrains. fiber contents.

Der contents.

Other second-place finishers include the princity of fruits you have in your fruit Other second-place insusers incuted majority of fruits you have in your fruit bowl right now. Plums, bananas, cherries, blueberries, peaches, grapes, pears and apples are all high in both vitamin C and fiber and most are rich in potassium as

fiber and most are rich in potassium as well.

One of the least nutritious fruit snacks may surprise you - opplesauce. You may think that enting applesauce is just as healthy as enting an apple, but half cup of unswestened applesauce doesn't have nearly the nutritional value of an apple. Applesauce is a source of fiber and lacks in the vitamin department, but its a much healthire snack than a piece of cake.

If you don't each much fruit, try to go for the healthiest ones in order to get the most out of it.

However, remember that all fruits are healthy and any kind of fruit is much better than no fruit at all. If you haven't tasted many of the more exotic or uncommon fruits, summer is the time to experiment while they're in season.

I read every one of your letters and I.

while they're in season.

I read every one of your letters and I love your comments! Please keep writing me with any questions, inspirational stores or suggestions for upcoming articles to: "Jult to the Mirror," Weight Watchers Corporate Communications, P.O. Box 9072, Farmington Hills, MI 4834-2974.

For more information on Weight Watchers, call 1-888-3FLORINE.

(Florine Mark is an appointee to the Covernor's Council of Physical Fitness and the Michigan Fitness Foundation.)

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#### SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIES

STRATEGIES

According to the first federal guidelines on the identification, ovaluation, and treatment of overweight and obseity in adults released last Wednesday by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBB), in cooperation with the National Institute of Disbetts and State of the National Institute of Disbetts and Inst

weight loss of one to two pounds per week.

Weight maintenance should be a priority after the first six months of weight loss therepy.

Flysticians slow the have their particular try lifestyle therapy for at least six months before embarking on physician-prescribed drug therapy. Weight loss drugs appared by tried has for a comprehensive the particular tried particular to the particular tried to a program that includes disput the program that includes the program that of the program that the program that the program that includes the pr

total treatment have not been estab-lished.

Weight loss surgery is an option for carefully selected potients with clinically severe obesity – BMI greater than 40, or BMI greater than 35 with coexisting conditions – when less invasive methods have failed and the patient is at high risk for obesity-associated illness. Life-long medical surveillance after surgery is a necessity.

iong medical surveillance alter surgery is a necessity.

© Cverweight and obese patients who do not wish to lose weight, or are otherwise not candidates for weight loss treatment, should be counseled on strategies to avoid furtures in the country of the country

counseled on strategies to avoid fur-ther weight gain.

Age alone should not preclude weight loss treatment in older adults. A careful evaluation of potential risks and benefits in the individual patient should guide management.

# <u>A weighty issue</u>

## New guidelines focus on obesity

The first federal guidelines on the identification, evaluation, and treatment of overweight and obesity in adults were released last Wednesday by the National Heart. Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), in coperation with the National Institute of Diabetes and Digastive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK).

These clinical practice guidelines are designed to help physicians in their care of overweight and obesity, a growing public health problem that affects 97 million American adults - 55 percent of the population.

These individuals are at increased risk of illness from hypertension, lipid disorders, type 2 diabetes, econoary heart disease, stroke, galibladder disease, osteoarthritis, sleep apnea and respiratory problems, and certain cancers. The total costs attributable to obesity-related disease approaches \$100 billion annually.

"Overweight and obesity pose a major public health challenge. The develor-

billion annually
"Overweight and obesity pose a major
public health challenge. The development of these guidelines was a pioneering achievement since they were the
first ever developed by the Institute
using an evidence-based model and
methodology," NHLBI Director Dr.
Claude Lenfant said. "This report will
be an invaluable clinical tool for any
health care professional who works
with overweight or obese patients."

#### The BMI way

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The BMI way

The guidelines are based on the most extensive review of the scientific evidence on overweight and obesity conducted to date. The review involved a systematic analysis of the published scientific literature to address 35 key clinical questions on how different treatment strategies affect weight loss and how weight control affects the major risk factors for heart disease and stroke as well as other chronic diseases and conditions.

The guidelines present a new approach for the assessment of overweight and obesity and establish principles of safe and effective weight loss. According to the guidelines, assessment of overweight involves evaluation of three key measures – body mass index (BMI), waist circumference, and a patienta risk factors for diseases and conditions associated with obesity.

Dr. Jerry Cooper, Medical Director of Michigan-based Medical Weight Loss Clinics, asys Medical Weight Loss Clinics have been using BMI to diagnose overweight and obesity for more than two years and have found BMI to be the best way to determine who is overweight or obese.

"We know that overweight and obesity shortens lives and puts people's health at risk." Dr. Cooper said. "Using the BMI index has helped us to diagnose the problem and holp our patients lose weight, either through our standard programs or using Meridia, a new drug therapy."

The guidelines' definition of overweight is based on research which relates body mass index to risk of death and illness. The 24-member expert panel that developed the guidelines identified overweight as a BMI of 25 to 29.9 and obesity as a BMI of 30 and above, which is consistent with the definitions used in many other countries, and supports the Dietary Guidelines for Americans issued in 1995. BMI describes body weight relative to height and is strongly correlated with total body fat content in adults. According to the guidelines, a BMI of 30 is about 30 pounds overweight and is equivalent to 186 pounds in a 6-foot person and to 186 pounds in someone who is 5-6. The BMI numbers apply to both men and women. Some very muscular people may have a high BMI without health risks.

The panel recommends that BMI be

may have a high BMI without health risks.

The panel recommends that BMI be determined in all adults. People of normal weight should have their BMI reassessed in two years.

"The evidence is solid that the risk for various cardiovascular and other diseases rises significantly when someone's BMI is over 25 and that risk of death increases as the body mass index reaches and surpasses 30," solid Dr. F. Xavier Pi Sunyer, chairman of the expert panel and director of the Obesity Research Center, St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital Center in New York City.

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expert panet and director of the Obesity Research Center, St. Luke'a/Roosevelt Hospital Center in New York City.

According to a new analysis of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES III), as BMI levels rise, average blood pressure and total cholesterol levels increase and average HDL or good cholesterol levels decrease. Men in the highest obesity category have more than twice the risk of hypertension, high blood cholesterol, or both compared to men of normal weight. Women in the highest obesity category have four times the risk of cither or both of these risk factors.

The guidelines recommend weight loss to lower high blood pressure, to lower high blood pressure, to lower high total cholesterol and to raise low levels of HDL or good cholesterol, and to lower clevated blood glucose in overweight persons with two or more risk factors and in obese persons. Overweight patients without risk factors should prevent further weight gain, advise the guidelines.

In addition to measuring BMI, health care professionals should evaluate a patient's risk factors, such as elevations in blood pressure or blood cholesterol, or family history of obesity-related disease.

At a given level of overweight or obesity, patients with additional risk fac-

eeroi, or inmity nistory of obeasity-related disease.

At a given level of overweight or obesity, patients with additional risk factors are considered to be at higher risk for health problems, requiring more intensive therapy and modification of any risk factors.

Physicians are also advised to determine waits circumference, which is strongly associated with abdominal fat.

Excess abdominal lat is an independent predictor of disease risk. A waist circumference of over 40 inches in men and over 35 inches in women significe increased risk in those who have a BMI of 25 to 34.9.

#### Upward trend

According to NHANES III, the trend in the prevalence of overweight and obesity is upward. The guidelines note that from 1960 to 1994, the prevalence of obesity in adults GBM greater than 30) increased from nearly 13 percent to 22.5 percent of the U.S. population, with most of the increase occurring in the 1990s.

with most of the increase occurring in the 1990s.

There are several possible reasons for the increase," said Karen Donato, coordinator of the Obesity Education Initiative. "When people read labels, they're more likely to notice what's low-flat and healthy but may not be locking at calories. Also, more people are eating out and portion sizes have increased. Another issue is decreased physical activity. So people are consuming more calories and are less active. It doesn't take much to tip the energy balance," she said.

activity. So people are consuming more calories and are less active. It doesn't take much to tip the energy belance," she said.

The upward trend in adult obesity has also been observed in children, notes the report. Since treatment issues surrounding overweight children and adolescents are quite different from the treatment of adults, the panel called for a separate guideline for youth as soon as possible. However, a healthy eating plan and increased physical activity is an important goal for all family members. With that in mind, the guidelines contain practical information on healthy eating. Based on this material, the NHLBI has developed consumer tips on shopping, eating, and dining out.

The guidelines have been reviewed by 116 health experts at major medical and professional societies. They have been endorsed by the coordinating committees of the National Cholesterol Education Program and the National High Blood Pressure Education Program, the North American Association for the Study of Obesity, the NIDDK Task force on the Prevention and Treatment of Obesity, and the American Heart Association.

These groups represent 54 professional societies, government agencies, and consumer organizations.

Clinical Guidelines on the Identification, Evaluation, and Treatment of Overweight and Obesity in Adults will be distributed to primary care physicians in the U.S. as well as to other interested health care practitioners.

Single free copies of specific consumer tips can also be obtained by writing to the NHLBI Information Center, P.O. Box 30105, Betheada, Md. 20824-0105.

For additional information on Medical Weight Loss Clinics, visit its website at www.medicalweight-loss.com.

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### How to effectively reduce stress



Adjusting to our changing world is difficult at best. Increasing global economic competition, downsizing margers, acquisitions, and economic competition, downsizing, mergers, acquisitions, and
the everyday hasales of trying to
run a business can create a
great deal of stress in the workplace. Consider the following:

According to the American
Academy of Family Physicians,
two-thirds of all visits to the
family physician are attributed
to stress-related symptoms.

Eleven percent of all insurance claims result from "gradu15."

■ Loven percent of all insurance claims result from "gradual"

■ It's estimated that working mothers, in an attempt to balance their lives, juggle as many as seven things at once.

■ According to the World Health Organization, about one-half of the working population is unhappy with their jobs.

If the workplace is a microcosm of society, it's fair to say that there are many stressed people!

Constant changes increase are mentional health. Simply put, atressed in each of the motional health. Simply put, atressed in action to change. While the most put and the stress of the motion of

The possible outcomes from this situation are numerous, including an accident to a case of road rage. Including an accident to a case of road rage. Including an accident to a case of road rage. Including an including an accident to a case of road rage. Including an accident to a case of road rage and accident acci

as fruits, vegetables, low-fat and low-sugar toods and sancks.

Increase your physical activities – aerobic classes, walking the stairs, parking farther away from the office door, etc.

Maintain the right attitude, use the three-minute rule and enhance your self-esteem by building up other people.

Stress and stress-related problems are a very real and growing part of work and personal life for millions of Americans. Trying to cope with life's hassles can be overwhelming, but learning to manage stress effectively is paramount being a happy and healthy human being. One of the control o

### **HEALTHY LIVING**

### **Red Wings art**

Detroit Red Wings fans can join in the excitement of purchasing a numbered and collectable work of art with proceeds benefitting two

charities.

The Detroit Medical Conter's Hutzel Hospital Women's Gulld has purchased a limited edition of 500 pieces of litho-seri-graphs featuring Bugs Bunny on the ice wearing a Red Wings uniform. The art was personally signed by Red Wings team captain Steve Yzerman and one of Warner Brothers legendary animators,

Steve Yzerman and one of warner brouners regeneary animators, Charles McKimson.

This piece of collectable art is numbered and includes a photo of Charles McKimson and Sieve Yzerman signing the piece. The art is officially licensed and includes the logse of the National Rockey League, the Detroit Red Wings, Warner Brothers and the Stanley

Cup.
Also included with the custom-framed art is the Red Wings commemorative patch, which was purchased by the Hutzel Women
Guild and is included with the art in the matte portion. Proceed
from the sale of the patch go to the Red Wings Foundation for Head
and Spinal Cord Injuries for Vladimir Konstantinov and Sergei
Minstakanov.

and Spinel Cord Injuries for Visidimir Kontantinov and Sergei Minatakanov.

The first numbered piece of art was to be be donated by the Hutzel Women's Guild and presented to the Red Wings organization for display in the Olympia Room at Joe Louis Arens. The proceeds from the sale of the art will be donated in support of the new Hutzel Birthing Center, which is nearing the first phase of construction. For those wishing to preview the art, it will be on display at Bella Luna's at Summit Place Mall and Fairlane Mall; the Art Loft in downtown Birmingham; Hite Photo in West Bloomfield; Scalawags Country Club in Chesterfield Township; Utimate Toys and Gifts in Northville; Sam's Detail in Farmington Hills; and the Hutzel Hospital Gift Shop/Gallery of Pictures. Orders can be taken at these locations.

tal Gift Shop/Gallery of Pictures. OTHERS can be assent as these sections.

The pieces, with certificate of authenticity included, can be purchased for \$625. The premium edition (number 19, Yzerman's jorsey number) has already sold for \$2,000, and 10 percent of this clitting has already been pre-sold. Visit the Hutzel Haspital Gift Shop/Gallery of Pictures to purchase your own piece of sports history, interested parties cân also contact Juanita Wade, director of the Women's Guild, at \$131,745-7689 or Tracey Conn-Burnstein at ArtQuote International at \$(248) 851-8091.