

# Diet & Nutrition During Treatment

## Eating well during treatment

Eating well has never been more important than it is right now. When you are going through treatment for breast cancer, good nutrition will:

- help keep you strong
- help your body rebuild tissue that has been damaged by treatment
- help your body deal with the side effects of treatment
- help your body fight off infection

Be sure to eat foods from all the food groups: breads and grains, fruits, vegetables, meats and dairy. You may even need to eat more high-protein foods during treatment. High-protein foods and plenty of calories

will give your body the energy it needs to keep up with your treatment plan.

Just as every person responds a little differently to cancer treatment, people also respond differently to the foods they eat. Ask your doctor to refer you to a registered dietitian (RD) who can help you choose the right foods for your unique needs if you are having trouble eating.



## A word about... weight changes

Some people going through treatment for breast cancer will have weight changes. Weight gain may be due to fluid retention and/or increased appetite caused by some cancer medications or the onset of menopause. Weight loss may be a result of poor appetite due to the side effects of treatment. It is important to try to maintain your normal body weight with proper diet and exercise. Tell your doctor or a registered dietitian (RD) if you notice a weight gain or loss of five pounds or more in one month. They will look into what is causing this change and give you advice.

## A word about... nutrition supplements

Contrary to popular belief, most women going through treatment for breast cancer do not need to take a nutrition supplement. You can usually get what you need by making a few changes to what you eat. If you are having trouble eating, check with your doctor or RD. They can give you tips on adding more protein or calories to your diet. Talk to your doctor before adding supplements to your diet. Some may interfere with your treatment.

## Common concerns

Treatment may cause side effects that can directly impact your diet. If you have any of the side effects listed below, be sure to tell your doctor and RD.

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also help.

### Side effects related to your diet

I don't feel like eating.

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U iV iV

the most healthy.

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My mouth and throat are very sore.

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U iV iV iV

U iV iV iV

U iV iV iV

My mouth is really dry.

U - iV iV

bars. They help produce more saliva.

UVivi

them more moist.

Diarrhea has become a problem for me.

U iV iV iV

day. Water, broth and grape juice are good choices.

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cheese, yogurt, white bread and smooth peanut butter.

3ObeVObSdSacaUbgcSdSWTWbWabbVS  
abVSOBVg

What will help me with constipation?

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U iV iV iV

fresh fruits and vegetables, brown rice and beans.

I'm always so nauseated and feel like I have to vomit.

U iV iV iV

iiiif//iViVi  
and vomiting.

UivVVVi

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## Resources

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1-877 GO KOMEN (1-877-465-6636)

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[www.cancer.gov/cancerinfo/eatinghints](http://www.cancer.gov/cancerinfo/eatinghints)

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