

Foods that Fight Inflammation

Modern human diseases are often associated with chronic inflammation that involves disruption of homeostasis. Homeostasis, from the Greek words for "same" and "steady," refers to any process that living things use to actively maintain fairly stable conditions necessary for survival. The term was coined in 1930 by the physician Walter Cannon. Consuming a diet rich in anti-inflammatory compounds can help with disease prevention and management of inflammation.

ANTIOXIDANT-RICH FOODS

Antioxidants are components of whole plant foods that may offer protection against inflammation and development of a number of chronic diseases. Different types of antioxidants can be found in a variety of colorful plant foods.

Food Sources:



red peppers
carrots
kale
dark chocolate



green tea
wine
cauliflower
broccoli



brussels sprouts
flax seeds
sesame seeds



pumpkin seeds
turmeric (both in whole form and spice form)

OMEGA-3S

Western diets high in processed foods tend to have excessive amounts of omega-6, a pro-inflammatory fatty acid. While omega-6 is necessary for a normal immune response to injury, high amounts can drive down levels of omega-3, an anti-inflammatory fatty acid.

Food Sources:



salmon, mackerel, sardines
chia seeds, flax seeds, hemp seeds

LOW-GI FOODS

The glycemic index, or GI, measures how a carbohydrate-containing food raises blood glucose. A food with a high GI raises blood glucose more than a food with a medium or low GI. Keeping blood sugar levels stable throughout the day support anti-inflammatory efforts.

Food Sources:



broccoli, cauliflower, kale, snow peas, asparagus, onions, zucchini, spaghetti squash, string beans, mushrooms, cucumber, eggplant, peppers, spinach, almonds, chia seeds, walnuts, avocado, apple, berries, pears, plums... just to name a few!

HEALTHY FATS

Mono and polyunsaturated fats should be chosen over saturated and trans fats. Choosing unsaturated fats over saturated fats and trans fats may lower LDL cholesterol and reduce the risk of heart disease.

Food Sources:



olives, avocados, tree nuts, seeds, non-tropical oils, fatty fish, walnuts, ground flax, chia seeds