

Sample Report

**NUTRIGENOMI**  <sup>®</sup>  
EAT ACCORDING TO YOUR GENES



Personalised Nutrition & Fitness Report



Hello Caroline:

Nutrigenomix is pleased to provide you with your Personalised Nutrition and Fitness Report based on your individual genetic profile. Your recommendations are based on the most current evidence-based scientific research that has been published in peer-reviewed journals and reviewed by our team of world-renowned experts in the field of nutrigenomics.

Our laboratory has used state-of-the-art genetic testing procedures to analyze the DNA from your saliva sample. We analysed your genetic code to determine how your genes can influence recommendations related to weight management, body composition, nutrient metabolism, cardiometabolic health, food intolerances, eating habits, fitness performance and injury risk. Based on these results, we developed a series of nutrition and fitness recommendations that are aligned with your genetic profile. As new discoveries in the field of nutrigenomics are made, you will have the opportunity to access this information to further fine-tune your personalised nutrition and fitness plan.

You and your healthcare professional can now use the personalised recommendations contained in this report to help you achieve optimal nutritional status and fitness level. In this way, you can create a plan to maximise your genetic potential and overall health and start to eat according to your genes!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ahmed El-Soheemy'.

Ahmed El-Soheemy, PhD  
Chief Scientific Officer

# Table of Contents

Summary of Results .....	2
The Science Behind Nutrigenomix .....	5

## NUTRIENT METABOLISM

Vitamin A (Beta-Carotene) .....	6
Vitamin B <sub>12</sub> .....	7
Vitamin C .....	8
Vitamin D .....	9
Vitamin E .....	10
Folate .....	11
Iron .....	12
Calcium .....	14

## CARDIOMETABOLIC HEALTH

Caffeine .....	15
Glycaemic Index .....	16
Sodium .....	17
Omega-3 Fat .....	18
Saturated Fat .....	19

## WEIGHT MANAGEMENT AND BODY COMPOSITION

Energy Balance .....	20
Physical Activity .....	21
Protein .....	22
Total Fat .....	23
Saturated and Unsaturated Fat .....	24
Monounsaturated Fat .....	25

## FOOD INTOLERANCES

Lactose .....	26
Gluten .....	28

## EATING HABITS

Fat Taste Perception .....	30
Sugar Preference .....	31
Eating Between Meals .....	32
Starch Digestion .....	33

## FITNESS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Motivation to Exercise .....	34
Exercise Behavior .....	35
Power and Strength .....	36
Endurance .....	37
Pain .....	38
Achilles Tendon Injury .....	39

International Science Advisory Board .....	40
--	----



# Summary of Results

## Nutrient Metabolism

Dietary Component	Gene, rs Number	Risk Variant	Your Variant	Your Risk	Recommendations
Vitamin A	BCMO1, rs11645428	GG	GG	Elevated	Focus on consuming pre-formed sources of vitamin A.
Vitamin B <sub>12</sub>	FUT2, rs601338	GG or GA	GA	Elevated	Focus on consuming bioavailable sources of vitamin B12.
Vitamin C	GSTT1, rs2266633	Del	Ins	Typical	Meet the RDA for vitamin C daily.
Vitamin D	CYP2R1, rs10741657	Algorithm	GA	Elevated	Consume 1000 IU (25 mcg) vitamin D daily.
	GC, rs2282679		GG		
Vitamin E	F5, rs6025	CT or TT	CC	Typical	Meet the AI for vitamin E daily.
Folate	MTHFR, rs1801133	CT or TT	TT	Elevated	Meet the RDI for folate daily.
Iron Overload	SLC17A1, rs17342717	Algorithm	CC	Low	Follow the recommendations provided in the Low Iron Status section.
	HFE, rs1800562		GG		
	HFE, rs1799945		CC		
Low Iron Status	TMPRSS6, rs4820268	Algorithm	GA	Typical	Meet the RDI for iron daily.
	TFR2, rs7385804		CA		
	TF, rs3811647		AA		
Calcium	GC, rs7041	Algorithm	TG	Elevated	Consume 1300mg of calcium daily.
	GC, rs4588		CA		

## Cardiometabolic Health

Dietary Component	Gene, rs Number	Risk Variant	Your Variant	Your Risk	Recommendations
Caffeine	CYP1A2, rs2472300	GA or AA	AA	Elevated	Limit caffeine intake to 200 mg/day.
Glycaemic Index	TCF7L2, rs12255372	TT or GT	GT	Elevated	Consume mostly wholegrain breads, cereals and gran foods, preferably those with low GI.
Sodium	ACE, rs4343	GA or AA	AA	Elevated	Limit sodium intake to 1600 mg/day.
Omega-3 Fat	NOS3, rs1799983	TT or GT	GG	Typical	Consume between 200-500 mg per day of omega-3 fat.
Saturated Fat	APOA2, rs5082	CC	TC	Typical	Limit intake of saturated fat to no more than 10% of energy.

## Weight Management and Body Composition

Dietary/Fitness Component	Gene, rs Number	Response Variant	Your Variant	Your Response	Recommendations
Energy Balance	UCP1, rs1800592	GG or GA	GA	Diminished	Aim for an energy deficit of 650 calories/day for weight loss.
Physical Activity	FTO, rs9939609	AA	TA	Typical	Aim for 150-300 min/week moderate or 75-150 min/week vigorous cardio activity.
Protein	FTO, rs9939609	AA	TA	Typical	Consume 20-30% of energy from protein.
Total Fat	TCF7L2, rs7903146	TT	CC	Typical	Consume 20-35% of energy from fat.
Saturated and Unsaturated Fat	FTO, rs9939609	TA or AA	TA	Enhanced	Limit intake of saturated fat to no more than 10% of energy. Consume at least 5% of energy from poly
Monounsaturated Fat	PPARγ2, rs1801282	GG or GC	CC	Typical	Aim for a balance of saturated, monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats to meet your total daily fa

## Food Intolerances

Dietary Component	Gene, rs Number	Risk Variant	Your Variant	Your Risk	Recommendations
Lactose	MCM6, rs4988235	CC or CT	CT	Slightly Elevated	Limit dairy intake.
Gluten	HLA, rs2395182	Algorithm	GT	Medium	Medium risk for gluten intolerance.
	HLA, rs7775228		TT		
	HLA, rs2187668		CT		
	HLA, rs4639334		GG		
	HLA, rs7454108		TT		
	HLA, rs4713586		AA		

## Eating Habits

Dietary Component	Gene, rs Number	Risk Variant	Your Variant	Your Risk/Response	Recommendations
Fat Taste Perception	CD36, rs1761667	GG or GA	AA	Typical	Your ability to sense the fatty taste of foods is typical.
Sugar Preference	GLUT2, rs5400	CT or TT	CT	Elevated	You have a high preference for sugar.
Eating Between Meals	MC4R, rs17782313	CC or CT	TT	Typical	Your tendency to eat between meals is typical.
Starch Digestion	AMY1, rs4244372	AA	AT	Typical	Your ability to metabolise starch is typical.





**1 in 5**  
People with Risk Variant

## Your Results

Gene	Marker
BCMO1	rs11645428
Risk Variant	Your Variant
GG	GG

Your Risk

**Elevated**  
only when vitamin A intake is low

## Recommendation

Since you possess the GG variant of the BCMO1 gene, it is important for you to meet the RDI for Vitamin A. Consuming foods that are higher in pre-formed vitamin A can help you to meet your needs. These foods include fish, liver, eggs, and dairy products. Meeting your recommendations for vitamin A will help to support healthy immunity, vision, and reproductive health. It will also act as an antioxidant when consumed in the form of beta-carotene (plant-sources). Women should aim for 700 mcg RAE/day and men should aim for 900 mcg RAE/day.

**Focus on consuming pre-formed sources of vitamin A.**

# Vitamin A (Beta-Carotene)

Vitamin A is a fat-soluble vitamin that is important for vision, a strong immune system and healthy reproduction. Beta-carotene is a precursor of active vitamin A and is an antioxidant found in certain fruits and vegetables that are orange-red in color. Beta-carotene can be converted to pre-formed vitamin A (retinol) in the body to exert its biological functions. Research shows that individuals with the GG version of the BCMO1 gene are inefficient at converting beta-carotene to active vitamin A\*. These individuals are considered low responders to dietary beta-carotene so consuming enough active vitamin A can help ensure circulating levels of active vitamin A are adequate to support vision, immunity and reproductive functions.

\* Lietz G et al. Single nucleotide polymorphisms upstream from the  $\beta$ -carotene 15,15'-monooxygenase gene influence provitamin A conversion efficiency in female volunteers. *Journal of Nutrition*. 2012;142:161S-5S.

## BCMO1

Beta-carotene mono-oxygenase 1 (BCMO1) is an enzyme that plays a key role in the conversion of beta-carotene into the active form of vitamin A. Beta-carotene is the plant form of vitamin A. Individuals who possess the GG version of the BCMO1 gene are inefficient at converting beta-carotene into the active form of vitamin A. These individuals need to ensure they are consuming adequate amounts of vitamin A, particularly pre-formed vitamin A.

## Sources of Vitamin A

	High in Preformed Vitamin A	Amount (mcg RAE)
Pumpkin, canned (1/2 cup)		1010
Carrots, cooked (1/2 cup)		650
Sweet potato, boiled without skin (1/2 medium)		600
Bluefin tuna (75g)	✓	530
Spinach, boiled (1/2 cup)		500
Butternut pumpkin (1/2 cup)		340
Goat cheese, hard (50g)	✓	240
Eggs (2 large)	✓	220
Mackerel (75g)	✓	190

Source: Health Canada's Nutrient Value of Some Common Foods, Dietitians of Canada Food Sources of Vitamin A and Nutrient Tables for Use in Australia (NUTTAB2010)

# Vitamin B<sub>12</sub>

Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> (cyanocobalamin) is important for normal brain and nervous system functioning. It helps to keep blood cells healthy and prevent megaloblastic anemia, which can make you feel very weak and tired. Being deficient in vitamin B<sub>12</sub> is also associated with pallor (pale skin) and irritability. Research shows that some individuals are at a greater risk than others for vitamin B<sub>12</sub> deficiency based on the FUT2 gene\*. Since animal products are good sources of vitamin B<sub>12</sub>, individuals following a vegetarian diet are at an even greater risk of vitamin B<sub>12</sub> deficiency.

\*Hazra A et al. Common variants of FUT2 are associated with plasma vitamin B12 levels. *Nature Genetics*. 2008 Oct;40(10):1160-2.

## FUT2

The fucosyltransferase 2 (FUT2) enzyme is encoded by the fucosyltransferase 2 gene and is involved in vitamin B<sub>12</sub> absorption and transport between cells. Variants of this gene have been linked to low blood levels of vitamin B<sub>12</sub> especially when consuming a vegetarian diet. However, for individuals with the risk variant, consuming enough vitamin B<sub>12</sub> can help reduce the risk of vitamin B<sub>12</sub> deficiency.

## Sources of Vitamin B<sub>12</sub>

	Amount (mcg)
Clams, boiled or steamed (5 large)	59.0
Oysters, boiled or steamed (6 medium)	14.7
Atlantic herring (75g)	14.0
Nutritional yeast (1 Tbsp)	3.9
Mince beef, lean (75g)	2.7
Fortified soy beverage (1 cup)	2.2
Atlantic salmon (75g)	2.1
Lamb (75g)	1.7
Soy 'burger' patty (1)	1.7
Eggs, hard boiled (2)	1.1

Source: Health Canada's Nutrient Value of Some Common Foods, <http://nutritiondata.self.com> and Nutrient Tables for Use in Australia (NUTTAB2010)



**1 in 2**  
People with Risk Variant

## Your Results

Gene	Marker
FUT2	rs601338
Risk Variant	Your Variant
GG or GA	GA

Your Risk

**Elevated**  
only when vitamin B12 intake is low

## Recommendation

Since you possess an elevated risk variant for vitamin B12 deficiency, you should aim to meet the RDI for vitamin B12 of 2.4 mcg daily. You should focus on eating foods with a high bioavailability of vitamin B12 (foods with a form of vitamin B12 that your body uses more effectively). Meat and fish products have a higher bioavailability than eggs or plant sources of vitamin B12 including soy products or fortified milk alternatives such as rice beverage. If you follow a vegetarian diet, you are at an even greater risk for vitamin B12 deficiency.

**Focus on consuming bioavailable sources of vitamin B12.**



1 in 5

People with Risk Variant

## Your Results

Gene	Marker
GSTT1	Ins or Del
Risk Variant	Your Variant
Del	Ins

Your Risk

Typical

## Recommendation

Since you possess the Ins variant of GSTT1, there is no increased risk of vitamin C deficiency. Therefore, following the RDA guidelines for vitamin C is sufficient for you. The RDA for vitamin C is 75 mg per day for women and 90 mg per day for men. Smokers require an additional 35 mg per day. Citrus fruits and juices, strawberries, tomatoes, red and green peppers, broccoli, potatoes, spinach, cauliflower and cabbage are examples of foods that are good sources of vitamin C. Vitamin C can also be consumed in supplement form, either alone or as a multivitamin.

Meet the RDA for vitamin C daily.

# Vitamin C

Vitamin C is an essential nutrient that must be obtained from dietary sources. Low blood levels of vitamin C have been associated with an elevated risk of cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes and cancer. Research has shown that the amount of vitamin C absorbed into the blood can differ between people even when the same amount of vitamin C is consumed. Some people do not process vitamin C from the diet as efficiently as others and are at a greater risk of vitamin C deficiency. Two recent studies\* have shown that the ability to process vitamin C efficiently depends on a gene called GSTT1.

\* Cahill LE et al. Functional genetic variants of glutathione S-transferase protect against serum ascorbic acid deficiency. *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*. 2009;90:1411-7.  
Horska A et al. Vitamin C levels in blood are influenced by polymorphisms in glutathione S-transferases. *European Journal of Nutrition*. 2011;50:437-46.

## GSTT1

The GSTT1 gene produces a protein for the glutathione S-transferase enzyme family. These enzymes play a key role in the utilization of vitamin C. The GSTT1 gene can exist in one of two forms. The insertion ("Ins") form is considered functional while the deletion ("Del") form is not functional. The different versions of this gene interact to influence the way vitamin C is utilised in the body. A deletion version of the gene results in a reduced ability to process vitamin C. This means that people who possess the deletion version (Del) will have lower blood levels of vitamin C at a given level of intake than people who possess the insertion version (Ins) of the gene.

## Sources of Vitamin C

	Amount (mg)
Red capsicum (1 pepper)	216
Strawberries (1 cup)	96
Pineapple (1 cup)	92
Brussels sprouts (1 cup)	90
Orange juice (1 cup)	86
Broccoli (1 cup)	82
Grapefruit (1 fruit)	78
Mango (1 fruit)	75
Kiwi (1 fruit)	70

Source: TACO (UNICAMP), Canadian Nutrient File and USDA Nutrient Database

# Vitamin D

Vitamin D, along with calcium, is an important nutrient for optimizing bone health. Sufficient vitamin D is needed to absorb calcium and also contributes to normal functions of most cells in the body. Vitamin D can be synthesised by the skin from UV light or it can be obtained from the diet. Low blood levels of vitamin D can result in weak, brittle bones, poor muscle function, and decreased immunity. Life-long vitamin D insufficiency has also been linked to accelerated cognitive decline, autoimmune disorders, neuro-degenerative diseases and cardiovascular disease. Vitamin D deficiency is diagnosed by measuring the most common form of vitamin D in the blood, which is 25-hydroxy vitamin D. Research shows that variations in the CYP2R1 and GC genes can affect your risk for low circulating 25-hydroxy vitamin D levels\*.

\* Slater NA et al. Genetic Variation in CYP2R1 and GC Genes Associated With Vitamin D Deficiency Status. *Journal of Pharmacy Practice*. 2015;1-6.  
Wang TJ et al. Common genetic determinants of vitamin D insufficiency: a genome-wide association study. *Lancet*. 2010;376:180-88.

## CYP2R1 & GC

Vitamin D 25-hydroxylase is the key enzyme that activates vitamin D from its pre-formed type, which is obtained through sun exposure and the diet. This enzyme is encoded by the CYP2R1 gene and a variant of this gene has been associated with an increased risk of low circulating levels of vitamin D. The GC gene encodes the vitamin D-binding protein, which binds vitamin D and transports it to tissues. A variant in this gene has also been associated with an increased risk of low circulating levels of vitamin D.

## Sources of Vitamin D

	Amount (IU)
Atlantic salmon (75g)	680
Vitamin D mushrooms, raw (1/2 cup)	532
Whitefish (75g)	448
Rainbow trout (75g)	192
Smoked salmon (40g)	168
Halibut (75g)	144
Fortified soy beverage (1 cup)	124
Arctic char (75g)	112
Milk (1 cup)	104
Orange juice, fortified with vitamin D (1/2 cup)	50

Source: Health Canada's Nutrient Value of Some Common Foods, Canadian Nutrient File and Food Standards Australia New Zealand (NUTTAB2010)



4 in 5

People with Risk Variant(s)

## Your Results

Gene	Marker
CYP2R1 GC	rs10741657 rs2282679
Risk Variant	Your Variants
algorithm	GA GG

Your Risk

Elevated

only when vitamin D intake is low

## Recommendation

Since you possess one or more elevated risk variants, you are at an increased risk for low circulating vitamin D levels, so getting enough vitamin D is important. Aim for 1000 IU (25 mcg) vitamin D per day. This can help to maintain and/or improve your bone health, muscle and brain function, immunity, and heart health. Since it may be challenging to get enough vitamin D in the diet, supplementation may be beneficial. Do not exceed 2000 IU (50 mcg) per day without monitoring your blood levels of vitamin D.

Consume 1000 IU (25 mcg) vitamin D daily.



**1in20**  
People with Risk Variant

## Your Results

Gene	Marker
F5	rs6025
Risk Variant	Your Variant
CT or TT	CC

Your Risk  
**Typical**

## Recommendation

Since you possess the typical risk variant of the F5 gene, you would not benefit from taking a vitamin E supplement to lower your risk of VTE. Meet the AI for vitamin E of 10 mg/day (14 IU/day) for men and 7 mg/day (10 IU/day) for women. Good sources of vitamin E include almonds, sunflower seeds, sunflower oil, hazelnuts, and grapeseed oil.

Meet the AI for vitamin E daily.

# Vitamin E

Vitamin E is a fat-soluble vitamin that is essential for building a strong immune system, as well as healthy eyes and skin. It is a potent antioxidant that may help to prevent cardiovascular disease. Most vegetable oils, nuts and seeds are excellent sources of vitamin E. Some of the highest amounts of vitamin E are found in grapeseed oil, sunflower oil, canola oil, and flaxseed oil. While vitamin E deficiencies are rare, research has shown that some individuals might benefit from higher intakes of vitamin E for the prevention of venous thromboembolism (VTE). VTE consists of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) (blood clots, usually in the legs) and pulmonary embolism (blood clots that travel to the lungs from other parts of the body). VTE blood clots can cause pain, swelling, and redness. The risk of VTE is dependent, in part, on variations in the F5 gene, but research shows this risk is reduced in those who take a vitamin E supplement\*.

\* Glynn RJ et al. Effects of random allocation to vitamin E supplementation on the occurrence of venous thromboembolism: report from the Women's Health Study. *Circulation*. 2007;116:1497-503.

## F5

The F5 gene helps to produce a protein called coagulation factor 5. Coagulation factors are involved in the formation of blood clots. Blood clotting can be beneficial for stopping bleeding and sealing off blood vessels in a wound or scrape. However, more serious blood clots can occur in cases such as VTE where the clot occurs in a vein and obstructs the flow of blood. These clots can travel to the lungs resulting in pulmonary embolism. Variations in the F5 gene have been associated with an increased risk of VTE.

## Sources of Vitamin E

	Amount (mg)
Almonds (1/4 cup)	9.3
Sunflower seeds, roasted (1/4 cup)	8.5
Sunflower oil (1 Tbsp)	7.7
Hazelnuts, dry roasted (1/4 cup)	5.2
Grapeseed oil (1 Tbsp)	4.0
Peanut butter (2 Tbsp)	2.9
Peanuts, dry roasted (1/4 cup)	2.6
Flaxseed oil (1Tbsp)	2.4
Canola oil (1 Tbsp)	2.4
Halibut (75g)	2.2
Eggs, hard boiled (2 large)	1.0

Source: Health Canada's Nutrient Value of Some Common Foods and Nutrient Tables for Use in Australia (NUTTAB2010)

# Folate

Folate is a water-soluble B vitamin that is necessary for cell growth and development. Low blood levels of folate have been associated with increased risk of heart disease and stroke. Research has shown that the amount of folate absorbed into the blood can differ between individuals even when the same amount of folate is consumed. Some people do not utilise dietary folate as efficiently as others and are consequently at a greater risk of folate deficiency. Two studies\* have shown that an individual's ability to process dietary folate efficiently depends on a gene called MTHFR.

\* Solis C et al. Folate Intake at RDA Levels Is Inadequate for Mexican American Men with the Methylenetetrahydrofolate Reductase 677TT Genotype. *Journal of Nutrition*. 2008;138:67-72.  
Guinotte CL et al. Methylenetetrahydrofolate Reductase 677C T Variant Modulates Folate Status Response to Controlled Folate Intakes in Young Women. *Journal of Nutrition*. 2003;133:1272-1280.

## MTHFR

The MTHFR gene produces methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase (MTHFR), which is a vital enzyme for folate usage in the body. MTHFR converts folate obtained from the diet to an active form of the nutrient that can be used by the body at the cellular level. Variations in the MTHFR gene determine the way individuals can utilise dietary folate. Those people who have the CT or TT variant of the gene have reduced MTHFR enzyme activity and are at greater risk of folate deficiency when folate intake is low, compared to those with the CC variant.

## Sources of Folate

	Amount (mcg)
Chicken liver (75mg)	420
Edamame (soybeans) (1/2 cup)	382
Lentils, cooked (3/4 cup)	265
Spinach, cooked (1/2 cup)	130
Asparagus (6 spears)	128
Chickpeas (3/4 cup)	119
Black beans (1/4 cup)	108
Kale, raw (1 cup)	100
Avocado (1/2 fruit)	81

Source: Canadian Nutrient File and USDA Nutrient Database



**2in3**  
People with Risk Variant

## Your Results

Gene	Marker
MTHFR	rs1801133
Risk Variant	Your Variant
CT or TT	TT

Your Risk  
**Elevated**  
*only when folate intake is low*

## Recommendation

Since you possess the TT or CT variant of the MTHFR gene, there is a greater risk of folate deficiency if the RDI is not met on a daily basis. Ensure that folate intake is at least 400 mcg per day in order to reduce the risk of deficiency. Foods that are naturally high in folate include lentils, romano beans, black beans, white beans, okra, asparagus, spinach, and other leafy greens. Enriched ready-to-eat cereals, bread, and bread products are also good sources of folate. Folate can also be consumed in supplement form.

Meet the RDI for folate daily.





**1 in 150**  
People with risk variant(s)

## Your Results Iron Overload

Genes	Markers
SLC17A1 HFE HFE	rs17342717 rs1800562 rs1799945
Risk Variants	Your Variants
algorithm	CC GG CC

Your Risk

LOW

## Recommendation

Since you do not possess any risk variants for iron overload, you have a low risk for iron overload. Follow the recommendations given in the next section for Low Iron Status.

Follow the recommendations provided in the Low Iron Status section.

# Iron Overload

Hemochromatosis is a condition where the body absorbs too much iron (i.e. iron “overload”) and can result in liver disease, arthritis and heart conditions. If you have a high risk for iron overload it is important to monitor your iron intake and blood markers of iron status such as ferritin, hepcidin or transferrin saturation. There are two main types of dietary iron: heme and non-heme iron. Non-heme iron is found in certain plant products and is not absorbed as effectively as heme iron, but vitamin C can substantially increase the absorption of non-heme iron. Hereditary hemochromatosis is an iron overload condition that is linked to variations in the HFE or SLC17A1 genes\*.

\* Allen KJ et al. Iron-overload-related disease in HFE hereditary hemochromatosis. *New England Journal of Medicine*. 2008;358:221-30.  
Pichler I et al. Identification of a common variant in the TFR2 gene implicated in the physiological regulation of serum iron levels. *Human Molecular Genetics*. 2011;15:1232-40.

## HFE and SLC17A1

The human hemochromatosis protein is encoded by the HFE gene and variations in the gene sequence have been linked to iron overload. The SLC17A1 gene is located near the HFE gene and variations in SLC17A1 have also been linked to iron overload. The HFE protein functions to regulate iron uptake in the small intestine. Those with elevated risk variants need to be careful not to consume too much iron and should have their blood markers of iron monitored. This test detects approximately 95% of cases of iron overload.

## Sources of Iron

Sources of Heme Iron	Sources of Non-Heme Iron
Beef	Almonds
Chicken	Chickpeas
Fish	Parsley
Organ meats	Spinach
Prawn	Tofu
Veal	White beans

# Low Iron Status

Iron is an essential mineral that is required for transporting oxygen around the body, building a strong immune system, and several other functions. Low iron status is determined by measuring certain blood markers such as ferritin, hepcidin or transferrin. Low iron status can lead to anemia, which is associated with fatigue, pale skin, weakness, shortness of breath and dizziness. Several genes can impact the risk of having low iron status including TMPRSS6, TFR2, and TF\*.

\*Pichler I et al. Identification of a common variant in the TFR2 gene implicated in the physiological regulation of serum iron levels. *Human Molecular Genetics*. 2011;15:1232-40.  
Benyamin B et al. Variants in TF and HFE explain approximately 40% of genetic variation in serum-transferrin levels. *Am J Hum Gen*. 2009;84:60-65.

## TMPRSS6, TFR2, and TF

The TMPRSS6 gene codes for the protein matriptase-2, which affects hepcidin levels that help to regulate iron balance. The transferrin receptor 2 (TFR2) gene codes for the TFR2 protein, which helps iron to enter into cells. The transferrin (TF) gene codes for the protein transferrin, which is mainly responsible for transferring iron in the body. Together, variations in these genes can impact the risk of low iron status.

## Sources of Iron

	Amount (mg)
Chicken liver (75mg)	9.8
Baked beans (175ml)	5.8
Pumpkin seeds (2 Tbsp)	5.2
Spinach, boiled (1/2 cup)	3.4
Tahini (2 Tbsp)	2.7
Tofu (150g)	2.7
Chickpeas (3/4 cup)	2.4
Beef mince, lean (75g)	2.1
Almonds (1/4 cup)	1.5
Chicken mince, lean (75g)	1.2

Source: Health Canada's Nutrient Value of Some Common Foods and Nutrient Tables for Use in Australia (NUTTAB2010)



**2 in 3**  
People with risk variant(s)

## Your Results Low Iron Status

Genes	Markers
TMPRSS6 TFR2 TF	rs4820268 rs7385804 rs3811647
Risk Variants	Your Variants
algorithm	GA CA AA

Your Risk

Typical

## Recommendation

Since you do not possess any risk variants, you have a typical risk for low iron status. Meet the RDI for iron in order to promote healthy blood cells and energy levels. Men should aim for 8 mg/day. Women 19-50 years old should aim for 18 mg/day, while women over 50 should aim for 5 mg/day.

Meet the RDI for iron daily.



**1 in 6**  
People with Risk Variant(s)

## Your Results

Gene	Markers
GC	rs7041 rs4588
Risk Variants	Your Variants
algorithm	TG CA

Your Risk

**Elevated**  
only when calcium intake is low

## Recommendation

Based on your GC gene, you have an increased risk of bone fractures if your calcium intake is below the recommendation of 1300 mg per day. Meeting these recommendations will bring your elevated risk down to typical. Adults 19-50 years old should not exceed 2500 mg calcium per day and adults over 50 should not exceed 2000 mg per day. Aim to meet your recommended daily intake of calcium through dietary sources.

**Consume 1300mg of calcium daily.**

# Calcium

Calcium is an essential nutrient that is required for building and maintaining strong bones. In fact, about 90% of the body's calcium is stored in the bones and teeth. In order to absorb calcium, we need Vitamin D so these two nutrients go hand in hand. Refer to the section on vitamin D under 'Nutrient Metabolism' for your specific vitamin D recommendations. Research now shows that some people do not utilise dietary calcium as efficiently as others and this may depend on variations in the GC gene\*.

\* Fang Y et al. Vitamin D binding protein genotype and osteoporosis. *Calcif Tissue Int.* 2009;85:85-93.

## GC

The GC gene encodes the vitamin D-binding protein, which binds vitamin D and then transports it to various tissues. Since vitamin D is needed for the absorption of calcium, this binding protein can impact calcium levels in the body and, therefore, bone fracture risk. Research shows that two variations in the GC gene are associated with an increased risk of bone fractures when calcium intake is low.

## Sources of Calcium

	Amount (mg)
Low-fat cheddar cheese (50g)	450
Yogurt, plain (3/4 cup)	330
Skim milk (1 cup)	325
Fortified soy or rice beverage (1 cup)	320
Tofu, firm (150g)	235
Canned salmon, with bones (75g)	210
Sardines, canned in oil (1/2 can)	200
Kefir, plain (3/4 cup)	185
Edamame (soybeans) (1/2 cup)	130
Spinach, boiled (1/2 cup)	130

Source: Health Canada's Nutrient Value of Some Common Foods and Nutrient Tables for Use in Australia (NUTTAB2010)

# Caffeine

Caffeine is the most widely consumed stimulant in the world and coffee is the most significant source of caffeine. Research has shown that caffeinated coffee intake can have a significant influence on cardiovascular health. However, the reported effects of coffee on the cardiovascular system have been inconsistent and at times have appeared contradictory. Some studies reported a link between high coffee consumption and an elevated risk of high blood pressure and heart disease, while other studies have shown no effect or even a protective effect with moderate intake. Two landmark studies\* have now shown that the effect of coffee on cardiovascular disease depends on a variation in a gene called CYP1A2.

\* Cornelis et al. Coffee, CYP1A2 genotype, and risk of myocardial infarction. *Journal of the American Medical Association.* 2006;295:1135-41.  
Palatini P et al. CYP1A2 genotype modifies the association between coffee intake and the risk of hypertension. *Journal of Hypertension.* 2009;27:1594-1601.

## CYP1A2

The CYP1A2 gene produces an enzyme called cytochrome P450 1A2 (CYP1A2), which is the main enzyme responsible for breaking down caffeine in the body. We now know that variations in the CYP1A2 gene affect the rate at which caffeine is broken down. It is the rate at which caffeine is broken down that determines whether consumption of caffeine-containing products, such as coffee, is harmful to heart health. Individuals who possess the GA or AA variant of CYP1A2 break down caffeine more slowly and are at greater risk of high blood pressure and heart attack when caffeine intake is high. Those who have the GG variant actually have a lower risk of heart disease with moderate coffee consumption than those who consume no coffee at all.

## Sources of Caffeine

	Amount (mg)
Coffee (1 cup)	100
Energy drinks (1cup)	80
Espresso (1 shot)	85
Black tea (1 cup)	50
Green tea (1 cup)	45
Cola (1 can)	26
Chocolate, dark (40 g)	27
Decaf coffee, espresso, tea (1 cup)	0-15
Herbal tea (1 cup)	0

Source: Canadian Nutrient File and USDA Nutrient Database



**1 in 2**  
People with Risk Variant

## Your Results

Gene	Marker
CYP1A2	rs2472300
Risk Variant	Your Variant
GA or AA	AA

Your Risk

**Elevated**  
only when caffeine intake is high

## Recommendation

Since you possess the AA or GA variant of the CYP1A2 gene, there is an increased risk of high blood pressure and heart attack if consuming more than 200 mg of caffeine daily, which is approximately 2 small cups of coffee. Limit caffeine consumption to no more than 200 mg per day in order to reduce this risk. Caffeine occurs naturally in coffee, tea, cocoa, kola and guarana. It is also manufactured synthetically and added to cola, energy drinks, and certain over the counter cold remedies.

**Limit caffeine intake to 200 mg/day.**



**1 in 2**  
People with Risk Variant

## Your Results

Gene	Marker
TCF7L2	rs12255372
Risk Variant	Your Variant
GT or TT	GT

Your Risk

**Elevated**  
only when whole grain intake is low

## Recommendation

Since you possess the TT or GT variant of the TCF7L2 gene, there is an increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes if you consume foods with a high glycaemic index. Replacing high glycaemic index carbohydrates in the diet with low glycaemic index carbohydrates may help to reduce this risk. Reduce consumption of carbohydrates such as white bread, bagels, potatoes, and short-grain white rice. Opt instead for high fibre foods, which have a low glycaemic index. Cereal grains that can be found whole include wheat, rice, oats, barley, corn, wild rice, rye, quinoa and buckwheat.

**Consume mostly wholegrain breads, cereals and gran foods, preferably those with low GI.**

# Glycaemic Index

Whole grains are a low glycaemic index carbohydrate that have more fiber than refined grains. They also contain more essential micronutrients such as folic acid, magnesium and vitamin E. Years of research have shown that whole grains may help to reduce the risk of several diseases, in particular, type 2 diabetes. Scientists have also demonstrated that the TCF7L2 gene is strongly associated with developing type 2 diabetes. Research now shows that some individuals might benefit more from increasing their whole grain consumption\*.

\* Cornelis MC et al. TCF7L2, dietary carbohydrate, and risk of type 2 diabetes in US women. American Journal of Clinical Nutrition. 2009;89:1256-62.

## TCF7L2

The TCF7L2 gene produces a protein called transcription factor-7 like 2 (TCF7L2). This protein, in turn, affects how the body turns on or off a number of other genes. The interaction of these proteins and genes is complex, and not yet fully understood. However, the TCF7L2 gene is one of the most consistent predictors of the likelihood of developing type 2 diabetes. People who possess the high risk GT or TT variant of the gene are at greater risk of developing type 2 diabetes. Yet, recent studies have shown that consuming foods with a low glycaemic index can reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes in individuals who carry the GT or TT variant of the TCF7L2 gene.

Replace these foods...	with these foods...
white bread, bagels, pitas	100% whole grain bread, bagels and pitas
Short grain white rice	Basmati or wild rice, quinoa
White pasta	100% whole wheat pasta or brown rice pasta
High sugar ready-to-eat cereal	Porridge, natural muesli or 100% whole grain cold cereal
White flour baked goods	100% wholegrain/wholemeal flour baked goods

# Sodium

Sodium is an essential micronutrient that regulates blood pressure and blood volume. Most people consume more sodium than the body requires. The major adverse effect of excess sodium intake is elevated blood pressure, which predisposes to hypertension and heart disease. However, some individuals do not experience as great an increase in blood pressure in response to excess sodium intake as others. Research\* now shows that the effect of sodium intake on blood pressure is influenced by variations in a gene called ACE.

\* Poch E et al. Molecular basis of salt sensitivity in human hypertension: Evaluation of renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system gene polymorphisms. Hypertension. 2001;38:1204-9.

## ACE

The ACE gene directs the body to produce the angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE), which is known to play a role in regulating the response of blood pressure to sodium intake. It is now known that a person's specific blood pressure response to excess sodium intake is dependent on which variant of the ACE gene they possess. Those who have the GA or AA variant of the ACE gene are at a greater risk of experiencing elevated blood pressure when higher amounts of sodium are consumed than those possessing the GG variant of the gene.

## Sources of Sodium

	Amount (mg)
Ramen noodles, with flavour (1 package)	1760
Breakfast bagel w/ham, egg and cheese	1260
Tinned soup (1 cup)	1130
Ham (75g)	1040
Pickle (1 medium)	830
Pasta sauce, canned (1/2 cup)	650
Feta cheese (50g)	560
Potato chips (1 small bag)	390
Breakfast cereal (1 cup)	350
Bread (1 slice)	230

Source: Canadian Nutrient File and USDA Nutrient Database



**7 in 10**  
People with Risk Variant

## Your Results

Gene	Marker
ACE	rs4343
Risk Variant	Your Variant
GA or AA	AA

Your Risk

**Elevated**  
only when sodium intake is high

## Recommendation

Since you possess the AA or GA variant of the ACE gene, there is an increased risk of elevated blood pressure when sodium intake is high. Limiting sodium consumption to the Adequate Intake (AI) level of 1600 mg per day should help to reduce the risk. The AI is equivalent to 1/2 teaspoon of salt per day, which includes sodium that is found naturally in food as well as salt that is added during processing and preparation. Foods that are high in sodium include canned soups and canned vegetables, potato chips, processed meats, soy sauce, ketchup and processed cheeses.

**Limit sodium intake to 1600 mg/day.**



# Omega-3 Fat

Omega-3 fats, such as those found in fatty fish, have been associated with a reduced risk of heart disease. This is likely due, in part, to their ability to lower blood levels of triglyceride that impair blood circulation. Previous studies have produced mixed results relating to the effects of omega-3 fat on triglyceride levels between individuals. Some people experience a significant reduction in triglyceride levels in response to increasing omega-3 fat intake, whereas others experience little benefit. The reasons for these differences have been unclear until a recent breakthrough study\* showed that the effect of omega-3 fat on triglyceride levels depends on variations in a gene called NOS3.

\* Ferguson J et al. NOS3 gene polymorphisms are associated with risk markers of cardiovascular disease, and interact with omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids. *Atherosclerosis*. 2010;211:539-544.

## NOS3

The NOS3 gene directs the production of an enzyme called nitric oxide synthase. This enzyme is responsible for making nitric oxide, which plays an important role in the function of cells that line our blood vessels. Current research shows that variations in the NOS3 gene interact with omega-3 fat in different ways to impact how the body processes triglycerides. Those who have the GT or TT variant of the gene are at greater risk of elevated triglyceride levels when consuming a diet low in omega-3 fats, compared to those who have the GG variant.

## Sources of Omega-3 Fat\*

	Amount (g)
Salmon (75g)	1.6
Herring (75g)	1.5
Anchovy (75g)	1.3
Mackarel (75g)	0.9
Trout (75g)	0.7
Tuna, white (75g)	0.6
Lobster (75g)	0.4
Crab (75g)	0.3
Tuna, tinned, light (75g)	0.2

\* Long chain omega-3s EPA + DHA  
Source: Canadian Nutrient File and USDA Nutrient Database

1 in 2

People with Risk Variant

## Your Results

Gene	Marker
NOS3	rs1799983

Risk Variant	Your Variant
GT or TT	GG

Your Risk

Typical

## Recommendation

Since you possess the GG genotype, there is no benefit to increasing omega-3 intake in order to lower serum triglyceride levels. You should, therefore, follow the recommendation to consume 200-500 mg daily in order to lower general cardiovascular disease risk.

Consume between 200-500 mg per day of omega-3 fat.



# Saturated Fat

Saturated fats, such as those found in red meat and baked goods have long been associated with health conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease and obesity. However, the connection between saturated fats and obesity, has been poorly understood. In the past, scientists could not explain why certain people seemed prone to obesity when consuming a diet high in saturated fats, but others were less susceptible. A number of studies\* have now shown that the effect of saturated fat on obesity can be influenced by variations in a gene called APOA2.

\*Corella D et al. APOA2, dietary fat, and body mass index: replication of a gene- diet interaction in 3 independent populations. *Archives of Internal Medicine*. 2009;169:1897-906.

## APOA2

The APOA2 gene directs the body to produce a specific protein called apolipoprotein A-II, which plays an important role in the body's ability to utilise different kinds of fat. Scientists now understand that there are different variations in the APOA2 gene present in the human population and that these different versions of the gene interact with saturated fat in unique ways to influence energy balance and ultimately the risk of obesity. Those people who have the CC variant of the gene are at a higher risk of developing obesity when consuming a diet high in saturated fats than those possessing the TT or TC variant of the gene.

## Sources of Saturated Fat

	Amount (g)
Pork ribs (75g)	11
Tasty cheese (50g)	10
Ice cream, premium (1/2 cup)	11
Butter (1 tbsp)	8
Processed meat (75g)	8
Regular beef mince, cooked (75g)	7
Cheeseburger (single patty)	6
Muffin (1 small)	5
Hot chips (20-25 chips)	5
Full cream milk (1 cup)	5

Source: Canadian Nutrient File and USDA Nutrient Database

1 in 7

People with Risk Variant

## Your Results

Gene	Marker
APOA2	rs5082

Risk Variant	Your Variant
CC	TC

Your Risk

Typical

## Recommendation

Since you possess the TT or TC variant, there is no increased risk of high BMI and obesity with a diet high in saturated fat. However, you should still limit saturated fat intake to less than 10% of total energy intake, as recommended, in order to reduce the general risk of other associated health issues such as cardiovascular disease. Foods high in saturated fat include coconut and palm oils, fatty meats (lamb, pork and beef), butter, cheese, fried foods and baked goods. Suitable alternatives low in saturated fat include olive and vegetable oils, lean meats, low-fat dairy products, fish, and plant protein sources such as beans, nuts or tofu.

Limit intake of saturated fat to no more than 10% of energy.



7 in 10

People with Response Variant

## Your Results

Gene	Marker
UCP1	rs1800592
Response Variant	Your Variant
GG or GA	GA

Your Response

Diminished

## Recommendation

Since you possess the GG or GA variant of the UCP1 gene, your daily RMR may be approximately 150 calories (about 10%) lower than those with the typical risk variants. This is about 10% lower than individuals with the typical risk genotype. If you are trying to lose weight, reducing your energy intake from food or increasing your energy output through physical activity by approximately 650 calories per day can be helpful. For example, decreasing your energy consumed by 450 calories and increasing your energy output through physical activity by 200 calories per day is equal to a 650 calorie deficit.

**Aim for an energy deficit of 650 calories/day for weight loss.**

# Energy Balance

Energy is used to fuel all of the body's functions. A calorie is a commonly used unit of measurement to quantify energy. Energy input comes from the foods and beverages consumed. The body then uses energy to complete essential processes such as digestion, breathing, brain function and maintaining a normal body temperature. The energy burned during these essential processes is referred to as the Resting Metabolic Rate (RMR), which can vary substantially between individuals. Variability in RMR can depend on differences in muscle mass, weight, age and genetics. Research shows that variation in the UCP1 gene affects RMR\*. Total energy output is the sum of the RMR plus energy burned during physical activity. Consuming less energy and/or expending more energy can lead to weight loss.

\* Nagai N et al. UCP1 genetic polymorphism (-3826A/G) diminishes resting energy expenditure and thermoregulatory sympathetic nervous system activity in young females. *Int J Obesity*. 2011;35:1050-5.

## UCP1

Uncoupling protein 1 (UCP1) is found in fat tissue and is involved in metabolic processes that create energy and then release it in the form of heat. The UCP1 gene is important for regulating normal body temperature and can impact RMR. Research shows that individuals with the GG or GA variants tend to have lower RMRs compared to individuals with the AA variant. As such, they need to consume less energy to maintain regular bodily functions.

## Sources of High Energy Foods

	Amount (calories)
Fish, battered, fried (1 medium fillet)	590
Meat and vegetable pie (1 individual pie)	450
Pizza supreme (1/2 of 12")	440
Mixed nuts, roasted (1/2 cup)	410
Muffin (1 medium)	340
Avocado (1 fruit)	320
Milk shake, chocolate (1 cup)	300
Doughnut, chocolate covered (1)	270
Hot chips (20-25 chips)	240
Croissant (1)	230

Source: Health Canada's Nutrient Value of Some Common Foods and Nutrient Tables for Use in Australia (NUTTAB2010)

# Physical Activity

Physical activity has important benefits for mental health, physical fitness, weight maintenance and the prevention of many chronic illnesses. Physical activity can be in the form of structured exercise such as fitness training programs at the gym or training in a specific sport such as tennis or running. It can also consist of activities of daily living such as walking, climbing stairs, house-cleaning or carrying grocery bags. Two main types of physical activity are cardiovascular or aerobic conditioning exercises and skeletal muscle strength and conditioning exercises. Cardiovascular conditioning exercises include those that elevate your heart rate for a sustained period of time such as brisk walking, running, swimming and cycling, and improve the function of your heart, lungs and blood vessels. Skeletal muscle conditioning exercises include activities such as weight lifting or certain types of yoga, which improve muscle strength and power and improve bone health. Most forms of physical activity are beneficial, however, some individuals can achieve greater weight loss than others based on the amount and type of physical activity they perform. Research shows that variants in the FTO gene can impact your metabolic response to physical activity\*. Physical activity can reduce the effects of the FTO gene on risk of overweight and obesity by as much as 75%\*\*.

\*Andreasen et al. Low physical activity accentuates the effect of the FTO rs9939609 polymorphism on body fat accumulation. *Diabetes*. 2008;57:95-101.  
\*\*Reddon et al. Physical activity and genetic predisposition to obesity in a multiethnic longitudinal study. *Scientific Reports*. 2016;6:1-10.

## FTO

The FTO gene is also known as the 'fat mass and obesity-associated gene' since it can impact weight management and body composition. This gene's role in the body is related to metabolic rate, energy expenditure and energy balance. It is also expressed in regions of the brain that are involved in the regulation of energy intake. In individuals who have undergone bariatric surgery for weight loss, variation in the FTO gene can help predict their long-term weight loss success, which can have significant implications for nutrition care plans\*. Current research shows that specific dietary and physical activity recommendations can substantially help with weight loss and weight maintenance in individuals with certain variants of the FTO gene.

\*Rodrigues et al. A single FTO gene variant rs9939609 is associated with body weight evolution in a multiethnic extremely obese population that underwent bariatric surgery. *Nutrition*. 2015;31:1344-50.

## Types of Cardiovascular Activities

Moderate-Vigorous Intensity	
Swimming	Race walking, jogging, running
Briskly walking (3 miles/hour or faster)	Tennis
Biking	Water Aerobics

## Types of Muscle-Strengthening Activities

Lifting weights	Working with resistance bands
Heavy gardening (digging, shovelling)	Push-ups
Certain types of yoga	Sit-ups



1 in 6

People with Response Variant

## Your Results

Gene	Marker
FTO	rs9939609
Response Variant	Your Variant
AA	TA

Your Response

Typical

## Recommendation

Since you possess the TA or TT variant, you have a typical weight loss response from physical activity. Meet the general physical activity guidelines. This can have a positive impact on cholesterol levels, body composition, weight management, mental health, blood pressure, blood sugars, and many other health-related factors. Your physical activity recommendations include 75-150 minutes per week of vigorous cardiovascular activity or 150-300 minutes per week of moderate cardiovascular activity. You should also include strengthening activities at least 2 days per week. These activities should involve major muscle groups.

**Aim for 150-300 min/week moderate or 75-150 min/week vigorous cardio activity.**



**1 in 6**  
People with Response Variant

## Your Results

Gene	Marker
FTO	rs9939609
Response Variant	Your Variant
AA	TA

Your Response  
Typical

## Recommendation

Since you have the TA or TT variant of the FTO gene, you have a typical weight loss response from consuming a moderate-to-high protein diet. Protein is important for building and maintaining muscle tissue, helping to heal wounds and keeping you feeling full. Consume 20-30% of your energy from protein sources as part of a controlled energy diet.

**Consume 20-30% of energy from protein.**

# Protein

Protein is essential for muscle building, wound healing, healthy hair, skin and nails and proper immune function. Protein is best known for supporting the building and repairing of muscle tissue, which helps to build and maintain strength. Protein also helps you to feel full for longer, which can help you to feel more satisfied with fewer calories. For individuals at risk for overweight and obesity based on the FTO gene, a high protein diet can help with weight loss and weight maintenance over both the short-term and long-term\*.

\* Zhang X et al. FTO genotype and 2-year change in body composition and fat distribution in response to weight-loss diets: The POUNDS LOST trial. Diabetes. 2012;61:3005-3011.

## FTO

The FTO gene is also known as the 'fat mass and obesity-associated gene' since it can impact weight management and body composition. This gene's role in the body is related to metabolic rate, energy expenditure and energy balance. It is also expressed in regions of the brain that are involved in the regulation of energy intake. In individuals who have undergone bariatric surgery for weight loss, variation in the FTO gene can help predict their long-term weight loss success, which can have significant implications for nutrition care plans\*. Current research shows that specific dietary and physical activity recommendations can substantially help with weight loss and weight maintenance in individuals with certain variants of the FTO gene.

\*Rodrigues et al. A single FTO gene variant rs9939609 is associated with body weight evolution in a multi-ethnic extremely obese population that underwent bariatric surgery. Nutrition. 2015;31:1344-50.

## Sources of Protein

	Amount (g)
Chicken breast (75g)	25
Extra lean beef mince (75g)	23
Tofu, regular, extra firm (150g)	21
Salmon, cooked (75g)	20
Cottage cheese (1/2 cup)	15
Lentils (3/4 cup)	14
Chickpeas (3/4 cup)	9
Skim milk (1 cup)	9
Almonds (1/4 cup)	8
Whole egg (1)	6

Source: Health Canada's Nutrient Value of Some Common Foods and Nutrient Tables for Use in Australia (NUTTAB2010)

# Fat

Fat is essential for the absorption of certain vitamins including vitamins A, D, E, and K. Each gram of fat provides 9 calories of energy, which is more than double the calories in a gram of protein or carbohydrate. This makes fat the most energy-dense nutrient. The total amount and types of fats that you consume can affect heart health and body composition. In general, unsaturated fats are healthier than saturated or trans fats. The TCF7L2 gene is involved in body weight regulation and body composition. Research shows that individuals who possess the TT variant of TCF7L2 experience greater weight loss when they consume lower-to-moderate fat diets, in comparison to when they consume higher fat diets. For those with the CC or TC variant, there is no difference in weight loss based on the amount of fat consumed\*.

\* Grau K et al. TCF7L2 rs7903146-macronutrient interaction in obese individuals' responses to a 10-wk randomized hypoenergetic diet. American Journal of Clinical Nutrition. 2010;91:472-9. Mattei J et al. TCF7L2 genetic variants modulate the effect of dietary fat intake on changes in body composition during a weight-loss intervention. American Journal of Clinical Nutrition. 2012;96:1129-36.

## TCF7L2

The TCF7L2 gene produces a protein called transcription factor-7 like 2. This protein affects how the body turns on or off a number of other genes. Research shows that for individuals who possess the TT variant of the TCF7L2 gene, the amount of fat in the diet can significantly impact body composition (lean/muscle mass vs. fat mass) as well as the risk for being overweight or obese. Furthermore, possessing the TT variant puts you at an increased risk for insulin resistance (weakened ability to control blood sugars) when your total fat intake is high. Consuming a low-to-moderate fat intake can help facilitate weight loss in individuals with the TT variant, which can in turn help with insulin resistance.

## Sources of Fat

	Amount (g)
Macadamia nuts (1/4 cup)	26
Tasty cheese (50g)	17
Butter (1 Tbsp)	16
Swiss cheese (50g)	15
Olive oil (15mL)	14
Pistachios (1/4 cup)	14
Lean beef mince (75g)	11
Goat cheese (50g)	11
Yoghurt, regular fat (3/4 cup)	8
Atlantic salmon (75g)	8

Source: Health Canada's Nutrient Value of Some Common Foods and Nutrient Tables for Use in Australia (NUTTAB2010)



**1 in 10**  
People with Response Variant

## Your Results

Gene	Marker
TCF7L2	rs7903146
Response Variant	Your Variant
TT	CC

Your Response  
Typical

## Recommendation

Since you possess the CC or TC variant of the TCF7L2 gene, you have a typical weight loss response based on your fat intake. However, to help ensure that you are consuming a healthy, well-balanced diet, consume 20-35% of your total daily energy needs from fat as part of a controlled energy diet.

**Consume 20-35% of energy from fat.**



**2in3**  
People with Response Variant

## Your Results

Gene	Marker
FTO	rs9939609
Response Variant	Your Variant
TA or AA	TA
Your Response	

**Enhanced**  
when saturated fat intake is low and polyunsaturated fat intake is high

## Recommendation

Since you have the TA or AA variant of the FTO gene, you can enhance your weight loss by limiting saturated fat intake to less than 10% of total energy intake and consuming the rest of your recommended daily fat intake from unsaturated fats. Your intake of polyunsaturated fats should be at least 5% of your total energy intake, and the rest should come from monounsaturated fats. This can further help to decrease your risk of overweight, weight gain, and fat around your middle.

**Limit intake of saturated fat to no more than 10% of energy. Consume at least 5% of energy from polyunsaturated fat.**

# Saturated and Unsaturated Fats

There are two main types of dietary fats: saturated and unsaturated. Saturated fats, such as those found in red meat and baked goods, have long been associated with health conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease and obesity. Unsaturated fats, such as those found in olive oil, almonds and grapeseed oil, may help to decrease the risk of diabetes, cardiovascular disease and obesity. Current research shows that variation in the FTO gene can impact the response to saturated and unsaturated fat. For individuals with the AA or TA variant, a high intake of unsaturated fat, and low intake of saturated fat in the diet can help facilitate weight loss, decrease fat stores around the abdomen and decrease the risk for obesity\*.

\* Phillips CM et al. High dietary saturated fat intake accentuates obesity risk associated with the fat mass and obesity-associated gene in adults. *Journal of Nutrition*. 2012;142:824-31.

## FTO

The FTO gene is also known as the 'fat mass and obesity-associated gene' since it can impact weight management and body composition. This gene's role in the body is related to metabolic rate, energy expenditure and energy balance. It is also expressed in regions of the brain that are involved in the regulation of energy intake. In individuals who have undergone bariatric surgery for weight loss, variation in the FTO gene can help predict their long-term weight loss success, which can have significant implications for nutrition care plans\*. Current research shows that specific dietary and physical activity recommendations can substantially help with weight loss and weight maintenance in individuals with certain variants of the FTO gene.

\*Rodrigues et al. A single FTO gene variant rs9939609 is associated with body weight evolution in a multiethnic extremely obese population that underwent bariatric surgery. *Nutrition*. 2015;31:1344-50.

## Sources of Mono and Polyunsaturated Fat

Monounsaturated Fat	Amount (g)
Macadamia nuts (1/4 cup)	20
Almond butter (2 Tbsp)	12
Olive oil (1 Tbsp)	10
Canola oil (1 Tbsp)	8
Peanut butter (2 Tbsp)	8
Polyunsaturated Fat	Amount (g)
Flaxseed oil (1 Tbsp)	10
Grapeseed oil (1 Tbsp)	9
Sunflower oil (1 Tbsp)	9
Soybean oil (1 Tbsp)	8
Brazil nuts (1/4 cup)	7

Source: Health Canada's Nutrient Value of Some Common Foods and Nutrient Tables for Use in Australia (NUTTAB2010)

# Monounsaturated Fat

Monounsaturated fats such as olive oil, almonds and avocados have been associated with reduced risk for heart disease. Monounsaturated fats can help reduce bad cholesterol levels and may also help increase good cholesterol. Research shows that these fats can help facilitate weight loss and lower body fat composition in some individuals based on their PPARγ2 gene\*.

\* Garaulet M et al. PPARγ Pro12Ala interacts with fat intake for obesity and weight loss in a behavioural treatment based on the Mediterranean diet. *Molecular Nutrition and Food Research*. 2011;55:1771-9.

## PPARγ2

The PPARγ2 gene is involved in the formation of fat cells. This gene is mainly found in fat tissue. Because of its involvement in the formation of fat, PPARγ2 can impact weight management and body composition. Specifically, individuals who have the GG or GC variant of the gene tend to experience greater weight loss and lose more body fat, compared to those with the CC variant, when they consume a diet high in monounsaturated fats.

## Sources of Monounsaturated Fat

	Amount (g)
Macadamia nuts (1/4 cup)	20
Almond butter (2 Tbsp)	12
Olive oil (1 Tbsp)	10
Canola oil (1 Tbsp)	8
Peanut butter (2 Tbsp)	8
Sesame oil (1 Tbsp)	6

Source: Health Canada's Nutrient Value of Some Common Foods and Nutrient Tables for Use in Australia (NUTTAB2010)



**1in7**  
People with Response Variant

## Your Results

Gene	Marker
PPARγ2	rs1801282
Response Variant	Your Variant
GG or GC	CC
Your Response	

Typical

## Recommendation

Since you possess the CC variant of the PPARγ2 gene, consuming more monounsaturated fats will not necessarily help to facilitate weight loss and lower your body fat percentage. However, for heart health, you should aim for a balance of saturated, monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats to meet your total daily fat intake recommendation.

**Aim for a balance of saturated, monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats to meet your total daily fat intake.**



# Lactose

Lactose is a naturally occurring sugar found in dairy products. When lactose is properly digested, it is broken down into two different sugar molecules, glucose and galactose. The enzyme lactase is needed to break down lactose. Some people do not produce any, or enough lactase. Because of this, lactose is not digested normally and gets fermented in the intestines where gases are created. These gases can cause uncomfortable symptoms associated with lactose-intolerance. Some people with lactose intolerance cannot tolerate any milk products while others can tolerate small amounts of lactose. Individuals with an elevated risk variant are at an increased risk for low calcium intake and blood calcium levels\*.

\*Enattah NS et al. Identification of a variant associated with adult-type hypolactasia. *Nature Genetics*. 2002;30:233-7.  
 Koek et al. The T-13910C polymorphism in the lactase phlorizin hydrolase gene is associated with differences in serum calcium levels and calcium intake. *Journal of Bone and Mineral Research*. 2010;25(9):1980-7.  
 Dzialanski et al. Lactase persistence versus lactose intolerance: Is there an intermediate phenotype? *Clinical Biochemistry*. 2015. doi: 10.1016/j.clinbiochem.2015.11.001.

## Lactose Intolerance

When lactose is not properly digested it can cause uncomfortable symptoms such as stomach upset, gas, bloating, and/or loose stools. These symptoms usually develop about one hour after you consume lactose-containing products. Typically, individuals with lactose intolerance will have to consume a lactose-free or lactose-reduced diet for life. Your risk for lactose intolerance depends in part on the MCM6 gene. Sometimes you can develop short-term lactose intolerance when you are sick. This may occur, for example, in an individual with undiagnosed coeliac disease who is not yet consuming a gluten-free diet. However, once this individual consumes a strict gluten-free diet, the lactose intolerance tends to subside.

## MCM6

MCM6 is part of the MCM complex that helps to regulate the expression of the LCT gene, which encodes lactase – the enzyme, which plays a role in breaking down lactose. Variations in this gene can impact your ability to break down lactose, therefore, impacting your risk for lactose intolerance. Individuals who possess the CT variant may produce some lactase but the amount of lactase produced is limited.



## Nutrition Considerations with a Lactose-Free Diet

Research shows that individuals who consume a lactose-free diet are at a greater risk of inadequate calcium and vitamin D intake compared to individuals who can tolerate lactose\*. Calcium and vitamin D are important for building and maintaining strong bones and teeth. If you have lactose intolerance, you can still get enough calcium and vitamin D in the diet through fortified milk alternatives such as soy, almond, and rice beverages. Calcium and vitamin D are not added to all milk alternatives, so be sure to read the label to check that the products you are choosing have been “fortified with calcium and vitamin D.”

\*Koek et al. The T-13910C polymorphism in the lactase phlorizin hydrolase gene is associated with differences in serum calcium levels and calcium intake. *Journal of Bone and Mineral Research*. 2010;25(9):1980-7.

## Sources of Lactose

	Amount (g)
Cow's milk (1 cup)	15
Goat's milk (1 cup)	11
Flavoured milk (1 cup)	10
Buttermilk (1 cup)	9
Yoghurt (3/4 cup)	7
Frozen yoghurt (1/2 cup)	5
Ice cream (1/2 cup)	5
Cottage cheese (1/2 cup)	3
Sour cream (1/4 cup)	2
Hard cheese, example: Parmesan (50g)	<1

Source: Dietitians of Canada, Food Sources of Lactose and Nutrient Tables for Use in Australia (NUTTAB2010)



## Recommendation

Since you possess the CT variant of the MCM6 gene, you should limit your intake of dairy products. If you are experiencing symptoms of lactose intolerance, try avoiding lactose and monitoring if your symptoms disappear. Sometimes you can train your body to produce more lactase enzymes by slowly introducing lactose into your diet. Men & women 19-50 years old should aim to consume up to 2 servings of milk and/or alternatives daily while those over 50 years old should aim to consume up to 3 servings of milk and/or alternatives daily. Meet these recommendations by consuming lactose-containing products as tolerated as well as calcium- and vitamin D-fortified, lactose-free milk alternatives such as soy, almond, or rice beverage.

**Limit dairy intake.**

## Your Results

Gene	Marker
MCM6	rs4988235
Risk Variant	Your Variant
CC or CT	CT
Your Risk	

**Slightly Elevated**





# Gluten

Gluten is a protein found in wheat, barley, rye and products made from these grains. Some oats also contain gluten. Many foods that contain gluten provide fibre from whole grains and can be an excellent source of vitamins and minerals. However, for some people, gluten can cause severe digestive problems leading to nutrient malabsorption, anemia and many serious health problems.

\*Tonutti E and Bizzaro N. Diagnosis and classification of celiac disease and gluten sensitivity. Autoimmunity Reviews. 2014;13:472-6.

## Gluten Intolerance

Coeliac disease represents the most severe form of gluten intolerance and affects about 1% of the population. People with coeliac disease require a gluten-free diet for life.\* Non-coeliac gluten sensitivity (NCGS) is a milder form of gluten intolerance that may affect 5% of the population. Individuals with NCGS often experience diarrhea, abdominal pain, fatigue and headaches when they consume gluten-containing foods. However, these adverse effects of gluten in individuals who do not have coeliac disease are poorly understood and NCGS remains controversial.\*

## HLA

The HLA genes produce a group of proteins called the human leukocyte antigen (HLA) complex, which are responsible for how the immune system distinguishes between the body's own proteins and foreign, potentially harmful proteins. Research has shown that the HLA genes are the most important genetic predictor of gluten intolerance. Approximately 99% of people with coeliac disease and 60% of those with non-coeliac gluten sensitivity\* have the DQ2 or DQ8 risk version of HLA, compared to only 30% of the general population. Six variations in the HLA genes can be used to classify individuals into predefined risk groups for gluten intolerance.\* Risk prediction is based upon a scale of low, medium or high risk.

\*Mark Wolters VM and Wijmenga C. Genetic background of celiac disease and its clinical implications. American Journal of Gastroenterology. 2008;103:190-5.  
Sapone A et al. Divergence of gut permeability and mucosal immune gene expression in two gluten-associated conditions: celiac disease and gluten sensitivity. BMC Medicine. 2011;9:23.  
Monsuur AJ et al. Effective detection of human leukocyte antigen risk alleles in celiac disease using tag single nucleotide polymorphisms. PLoS ONE. 2008;3:e2270.



## Nutrition Considerations when Following a Gluten-Free Diet

Gluten-free foods include all unprocessed vegetables, fruit, dairy products, meat, fish, poultry, nuts, legumes, seeds, fats and oils. Gluten-free grains include: rice, quinoa, corn, buckwheat, amaranth, and millet. For individuals who need to follow a gluten-free diet, foods to avoid include any products that are made with wheat, rye, barley or triticale. Pure oats should be consumed in moderation if tolerated, while regular oats (which contain wheat) should be avoided. For the vast majority of the population, consuming a gluten-free diet is unnecessary. Processed gluten-free products often have more calories, sodium, added sugar and fat compared to their gluten-containing counterparts.

## Sources of Gluten

Major Sources of Gluten	Hidden Sources of Gluten
Bread	Salad dressing
Pasta	Pudding
Cereal	Crab stick
Crackers and crisps	Vegan meat substitute
Oats*	Potato chips
Baked goods	Sauces (tomato, BBQ)
Malt	Stock cubes
Soy sauce	Chocolate and candy
Gravy	Processed meat
Barley or wheat based-beer	Tinned soup
Vinegars	Flavoured rice crackers
Wheat - incl rye, spelt and barley	Commercial hot chips

\* Pure oats do not contain gluten; however, oats are often cross-contaminated with gluten-containing grains



## Recommendation

Since you possess this specific combination of variants in HLA, you possess at least one copy of the DQ2 or DQ8 risk genotype. This does not mean you have coeliac disease. Speak to your healthcare professional if you experience diarrhea, steatorrhea, cramps, flatulence, fatigue or joint pain while consuming gluten-containing foods, or if you have a family member with coeliac disease. Major dietary sources of gluten include bread, pasta, cereal and any baked good made with wheat, barley or rye. It is not recommended that you immediately attempt to remove gluten from your diet, as eliminating gluten may interfere with the accuracy of coeliac disease diagnostic tests.

## Your Results

Gene	Markers
HLA	rs2395182 rs7775228 rs2187668 rs4639334 rs7454108 rs4713586

Risk Variants	Your Variants
algorithm	GT TT CT GG TT AA

Your Risk

Medium

Medium risk for gluten intolerance.



**7in10**

People with Response Variant

## Your Results

Gene	Marker
CD36	rs1761667
Response Variant	Your Variant
GG or GA	AA

Your Response

Typical

## Recommendation

Since you possess the AA variant of the CD36 gene, you are a low taster of fats. This means that you require greater amounts of fat in your food to be able to detect the taste of fats as those who are super tasters. In comparison, super tasters are better able to detect the taste of fats at lower levels. Consuming too much fat, and the wrong types of fats (saturated vs. unsaturated) can be harmful for the heart and can lead to overweight and obesity. Refer to the Total Fats section of your report for your recommended daily intake of fats.

**Your ability to sense the fatty taste of foods is typical.**

# Fat Taste Perception

Food intake is largely determined by our taste perceptions and preferences for certain foods and beverages. The way that we perceive the taste of fatty foods is particularly important because our intake of fats can affect heart health and body composition. Fat is needed to absorb certain vitamins including vitamins A, D, E, and K. It provides 9 calories per gram, which is more than double the calories in a gram of protein or carbohydrate. Research shows that our preference for fatty foods can vary depending on which version of the CD36 gene we have\*.

\* Melis M, Sollai G, Muroli P, Crnjar R, Barbarossa IT. Associations between orosensory perception of oleic acid, the common single nucleotide polymorphisms (rs1761667 and rs1527483) in the CD36 gene, and 6-n-propylthiouracil (PROP) tasting. *Nutrients* 2015; 7(3): 2068-84.  
Pepino MY et al. The fatty acid translocase gene CD36 and lingual lipase influence oral sensitivity to fat in obese subjects. *Journal of Lipid Research*. 2012;53:561-6.

## CD36

The cluster of differentiation 36 (CD36) gene is also known as fatty acid translocase. It is found on the surfaces of many cells and is involved in the transport of fat from the blood. Several studies have now linked variations in the CD36 gene to differences in the perception of the taste and texture of fats and oils. 'Super tasters' tend to be able to detect the taste of fats and oils at lower levels than 'low tasters.'

## Sources of High Fat Foods

	High in Healthy (Unsaturated) Fat	Amount (g)
Tasty cheese (50g)		17
Avocado (1/2 fruit)	✓	15
Olive oil (1 Tbsp)	✓	14
Butter (1 Tbsp)		12
French fries (20-25)		12
Hamburger (1)		12
Croissant (1)		12
Salmon (75g)	✓	9
Full cream milk (1 cup)		9
Ice cream, chocolate (1/2 cup)		8

Source: Health Canada's Nutrient Value of Some Common Foods and Nutrient Tables for Use in Australia (NUTTAB2010)

# Sugar Preference

Sugar intake is partly determined by our sweet taste preference and cravings for certain foods and beverages. There is considerable variability in individuals' preferences and cravings for sweet foods and beverages. There are many factors that may impact your preference for sugary foods including the age that you are first introduced to sweets, and psychological associations between consuming these foods and certain life experiences or emotions. In the brain, there are even 'pleasure-generating' signals given off in response to eating or drinking something sweet. Research has shown that your intake of sweet foods can also be determined by your genes\*.

\* Ery KM et al. Genetic variant in the glucose transporter type 2 is associated with higher intakes of sugars in two distinct populations. *Physiol Genomics*. 2008;33:355-360.

## GLUT2

Glucose transporter type 2 (GLUT2) is involved in regulating glucose (sugar) in the body. The expression of this gene has been found in areas of the brain that are involved in controlling food intake. Individuals who possess the CT or TT variant of this gene seem to have a greater preference for sweet foods and beverages and are more likely to over-consume sugar.

## Sources of High Sugar Foods

	Amount (g)
Soft drink, cola (1 can)	36
Lollies (40g)	26
Caramels (40g)	26
Maple syrup (2 Tbsp)	24
Milk chocolate (50g)	22
Jellybeans (10 beans)	20
Flourless chocolate cake (1 slice)	20
Banana bread (1 slice)	18
Icy pole (1)	10
Jam (1 Tbsp)	10

Source: Health Canada's Nutrient Value of Some Common Foods and Nutrient Tables for Use in Australia (NUTTAB2010)



**1in5**

People with Risk Variant

## Your Results

Gene	Marker
GLUT2	rs5400
Risk Variant	Your Variant
CT or TT	CT

Your Risk

Elevated

## Recommendation

Since you possess the CT or TT variant of the GLUT2 gene, you are at an increased risk of over-consuming sugar. This means you may be more likely to enjoy sweet foods and beverages. Be mindful of this craving and aim to keep your intake of added sugar below 5% of your total daily energy intake. A high intake of added sugar is linked to overweight & obesity and cardiometabolic disease.

**You have a high preference for sugar.**



1in2

People with Risk Variant

## Your Results

Gene	Marker
MC4R	rs17782313
Risk Variant	Your Variant
CC or CT	TT

Your Risk

Typical

## Recommendation

Since you possess the TT variant of the MC4R gene, you have a typical risk for eating between meals. To maintain a healthy metabolism, avoid going longer than six hours without eating during the day. Monitor and respond to hunger cues, which may include a lack of energy, mood changes, stomach growling, weakness, dizziness, or having a headache. Choose healthy snacks that are not excessive in calories.

Your tendency to eat between meals is typical.

# Eating Between Meals

Eating between meals (i.e. snacking) can be beneficial if snacks are healthful and the extra calories are not in excess of those needed to maintain a healthy weight. Healthy snacks can assist with weight control, curb food cravings and boost energy levels. However, for many people snacking is often an unhealthy habit due to snack-food choices and/or excessive calorie intake beyond one's needs. For your overall health and wellness, it is important to manage emotional eating (psychological reasons for snacking), and focus on more healthful snacking when you feel hungry. Some reasons for emotional eating may include boredom, habit (i.e. eating in front of the television, or at certain times), stress, frustration, anxiety or loneliness. Scientists have also now discovered that variations in the MC4R gene are associated with the likelihood of eating between meals\*.

\* Stutzmann F et al. Common genetic variation near MC4R is associated with eating behaviour patterns in European populations. *Int J Obes.* 2009;33:373-378.

## MC4R

The MC4R gene codes for the melanocortin 4 receptor, which is found in the hypothalamus region of the brain. This is an area of the brain that controls hunger and appetite. The MC4R gene plays an important role in appetite regulation and hunger cues. Research shows that individuals with the CC or CT version of the MC4R gene are more likely to eat between meals often and have a heightened appetite.

Replace these foods...	with these foods...
Potato chips and dip	Whole wheat pita with hummus
Muffin	Whole wheat English muffin with peanut butter
Ice cream with toppings	Low-fat yoghurt with fresh berries
Trail mix with added oils or sweets	Fibre-rich cereal with milk/alternative
'Veggie' chips	Fresh vegetables with low-fat dip
Pasta salad	Mixed salad topped with chickpeas
Nachos and cheese dip	Whole wheat crackers with low-fat cheese
Potato chips	Natural popcorn
Pizza Slice	Half a chicken sandwich with veggies

# Starch

Carbohydrates are the main source of energy for our brain and muscle cells. There are three main types of carbohydrates: sugar, starch, and fiber. Healthful sources of carbohydrates in the diet include whole grains, starches, fruits, and low-fat dairy products, when they are consumed in moderation. Unhealthy sources of carbohydrates include refined grains, sugar-sweetened beverages and certain baked goods. Research now shows that your ability to digest starch depends partially on the AMY1 gene. Having the AA variant of the AMY1 gene decreases your ability to break down starch\*.

\*Mandel AL and Breslin PA. High endogenous salivary amylase activity is associated with improved glycaemic homeostasis following starch ingestion in adults. *Journal of Nutrition.* 2012;142:853-858.

## AMY1

AMY1 is a gene that codes for the amylase enzyme that helps digest starch. Salivary amylase is the enzyme found in your saliva, which begins the process of digesting starch that you consume. Levels of this enzyme are linked to the AMY1 gene. Certain populations that traditionally consume higher carbohydrate (starch) diets tend to possess the TT or AT variant of the AMY1 gene, compared to populations that traditionally consume lower carbohydrate (starch) diets. The TT or AT variant of the AMY1 gene is associated with a greater number of copies of the gene, so individuals with these variants produce more of the enzyme. Research now shows that when you have the AA variant, you may have a decreased ability to digest starches compared to those with the TT or AT variant.

## Sources of Starch

	Amount (g)
Spaghetti, cooked (1 cup)	35
Medium baked potato (150g)	30
Long-grain white rice (1/2 cup)	25
Tortilla (20 cm)	23
Sweet potato, cubed (1 cup)	17
Rolled oats, uncooked (1/3 cup)	15
Navy beans (1/2 cup)	14
Sweet potato, without skin (60g)	12
Corn kernels (1/2 cup)	10
Bread (1 slice)	10

Source: <http://nutritiondata.self.com>



1in10

People with Response Variant

## Your Results

Gene	Marker
AMY1	rs4244372
Response Variant	Your Variant
AA	AT

Your Response

Typical

## Recommendation

Since you possess the TT or AT variant of the AMY1 gene, you have a typical ability to digest and metabolise starches. Aim to meet your carbohydrate needs through healthy sources of carbohydrates such as whole grains, fruits and vegetables. Consume high-starch foods only in moderation.

Your ability to metabolise starch is typical.



# Motivation to Exercise

Your attitude toward exercise and the effect it has on your mood can greatly impact your likelihood of starting or maintaining a physically active lifestyle. Research shows that individuals who possess the AA or AG variant of the BDNF gene are more likely to experience positive mood changes and exercise for enjoyment. They also perceive their effort and exertion level as lower during exercise compared to individuals who possess the GG variant\*. All of these factors impact motivation to exercise. Being physically active has a multitude of benefits including improved cognitive function, and a lowered risk of many diseases, through improvements in body fat levels, blood sugars, blood pressure, and blood lipid profiles.

\* Bryan A et al. A transdisciplinary model integrating genetic, physiological, and psychological correlates of voluntary exercise. *Health Psychol.* 2007;26:30-39.  
 Caldwell Hooper A et al. What keeps a body moving? The brain-derived neurotrophic factor val66met polymorphism and intrinsic motivation to exercise in humans. *J Behav Med.* 2014;37(6):1180-92.

## BDNF

The brain-derived neurotrophic factor is a protein that is encoded by the BDNF gene. This protein works in regions of the brain to influence the nervous system, musculature, and blood vessels, all of which are important to exercise. Because of the complexity of mental stamina and the psychological response to exercise, the BDNF gene is only one of many possible genetic factors that may influence responses to exercise and future exercise behavior. Nevertheless, research shows that those with the AA or AG variant of the BDNF gene derive greater enjoyment or pleasure and improvements in mood from exercise and a lower perception of effort during exercise compared to those without this variant.

## Your Results

Gene	Marker
BDNF	rs6265
Response Variant	Your Variant
AA or AG	AA

Your Response

Enhanced

## Implications

Since you possess the AA or AG variant of the BDNF gene, you are more likely to experience greater enjoyment and positive mood changes from exercise. You also tend to perceive your exertion level during exercise to be lower than individuals with the GG variant. These responses to exercise result in a heightened motivation to exercise and greater likelihood that you will continue to exercise regularly. Therefore, you are at a genetic advantage when it comes to motivation to begin or continue regular exercise.

**You have an enhanced innate motivation to exercise.**

# Exercise Behavior

Participating in physical activity can lower blood pressure, lower blood sugars, improve cholesterol levels, decrease depression and improve mood, among many other positive outcomes. Research shows that genetic differences influence the likelihood of engaging in physical activity. The CYP19A1 and LEPR genes have been identified to be key contributors to one's probability of participating in physical activity\*.

\* De Moor MH et al. Genome-wide association study of exercise behavior in Dutch and American adults. *Med Sci Sports Exerc.* 2009;41:1887-95.

## CYP19A1 & LEPR

The CYP19A1 gene helps to make the enzyme aromatase, which is involved in hormone conversion. The exact physiological pathway by which this gene impacts exercise behavior is unknown. However, current research shows that those who have the AA or GA variant of the CYP19A1 gene are more likely to exercise compared to those with the GG variant. The LEPR gene helps to make the leptin receptor protein, which helps to regulate body weight. The precise relationship between variations in the LEPR gene and exercise behavior may stem from this gene's involvement in regulating energy balance. Those who have the TT or GT variant of the LEPR gene are more likely to participate in physical activity compared to those who have the GG variant.



## Your Results

Gene	Marker
CYP19A1 LEPR	rs2470158 rs12405556
Response Variant	Your Variant
algorithm	GG GT

Your Response

Typical

## Implications

Based on your LEPR and CYP19A1 variants, you have a typical likelihood of engaging in physical activity. Set monthly SMART (specific, measureable, attainable, realistic, timely) goals and consider using mental imagery; these can further enhance your motivation. Having an exercise partner can also enhance your likelihood of participating in physical activity.

**You have a typical likelihood of engaging in physical activity.**

# Power and Strength

Strengthening activities, as the name implies, are activities that strengthen your muscles and bones. Research shows that muscle-building exercises can also benefit brain health, help with regulating blood sugars, improve posture and help achieve and maintain a healthy body weight. Examples of these activities include body weight exercises such as push-ups, sit-ups, and lunges as well as lifting weights and working with resistance bands. Some activities of daily living or household chores are also considered strengthening activities such as strenuous gardening, carrying heavy groceries or running up stairs. Research shows that the ACTN3 gene plays a major role in your genetic predisposition to excelling in strength and power based activities\*.

\* Ma F et al. The association of sport performance with ACE and ACTN3 genetic polymorphisms: a systematic review and meta-analysis. PLoS One. 2013;8:e54685.



## ACTN3

There are two types of muscle fibers: slow twitch and fast twitch. Fast twitch muscle fibers contract with greater speed and force, which are needed for short bursts of intense activities including sprinting or lifting heavy objects. Slow twitch fibers contract for longer periods and at lower intensities and are used in activities such as walking or jogging. The ACTN3 gene encodes the alpha-actin 3 protein, which is only expressed in fast twitch muscle fibers. Therefore, certain variations in this gene can be beneficial for exercises or activities requiring strength and power. In particular, individuals with the CC variant of ACTN3 are significantly more likely to excel at strength-based activities. Those with the TC variant have a slightly enhanced power and strength potential.\*

\*Garton and North. The effect of heterozygosity for the ACTN3 null allele on human muscle performance. Med Sci Sports Exerc. 2015 [Epub ahead of print].

## Your Results

Gene	Marker
ACTN3	rs1815739
Response Variant	Your Variant
CC or TC	TT

Your Response

Typical

## Implications

Since you possess the TT variant of the ACTN3 gene, your genetics do not put you at an advantage for strength and power-based activities. You may need higher levels of training to achieve the same level of strength and power as an individual with a genetic advantage. Strengthening activities remain important for building and maintaining muscle mass. Aim to participate in strengthening activities at least two days per week.

**Your potential to excel in power sports is typical.**

# Endurance

Endurance activities refer to exercises that cause your heart rate to increase such as brisk walking, jogging, biking, swimming, or dancing. Endurance or aerobic exercise is often referred to as 'cardio'. Your VO<sub>2</sub> max or maximal aerobic capacity is a measurement of the maximum amount of oxygen that your body is able to process during 1 minute of exercise and is a marker of physical fitness. A higher VO<sub>2</sub> max generally results in a performance advantage when it comes to endurance activities, although many factors play a role. Research shows that there are several genes that impact your genetic predisposition to excelling in endurance activities\*.

\* Ahmetov I et al. Genome-wide association study identifies three novel genetic markers associated with elite endurance performance. Biol Sport. 2015;32(1):3-9. doi:10.5604/20831862.1124568.  
Zarebska A et al. The GSTP1 c.313A>G polymorphism modulates the cardiorespiratory response to aerobic training. Biol Sport. 2014;31:261-266.  
He et al. NRF2 genotype improves endurance capacity in response to training. Int J Sport Med. 2007;28:717-721.  
Santiago C et al. Trp64Arg polymorphism in ADRB3 gene is associated with elite endurance performance. British Journal of Sports Medicine. 2011;45:147-9.



## ADRB3, NRF2, GSTP1 & NFIA-AS2

ADRB3, NRF2, GSTP1 and NFIA-AS2 are all involved in physiological processes that impact your endurance abilities. The ADRB3 gene codes for the beta-3 adrenergic receptor, which is involved in energy metabolism as well as body temperature regulation. Variations in this gene have been linked to enhanced endurance performance. The NRF2 gene codes for the nuclear respiratory factor, and has also been linked to athletic performance status. This is related to its role in the formation of mitochondria – the part of the cell responsible for respiration and energy production. For the NFIA-AS2 gene, individuals with the CC variant tend to have greater VO<sub>2</sub> max, which is advantageous for endurance exercise such as brisk walking, jogging or biking. The GSTP1 gene, which codes the enzyme glutathione S-transferase P1, has also been linked to greater improvements in VO<sub>2</sub> max in response to aerobic training in the GG and GA variants. Together, these genes can predict your genetic advantage for excelling in endurance activities.

## Your Results

Genes	Markers
NFIA-AS2	rs1572312
ADRB3	rs4994
NRF2	rs12594956
GSTP1	rs1695

Response Variants	Your Variants
algorithm	CC TT CA AG

Your Response

Typical

## Implications

Based on your DNA, your endurance potential is typical. You may need higher levels of training to achieve the same level of cardiovascular fitness as an individual with a genetic advantage. Refer to the physical activity recommendations in the Weight Management & Body Composition section of this report for your specific cardio activity recommendations.

**Your endurance potential is typical.**





1 in 4

People with Response Variant

## Your Results

Gene	Marker
COMT	rs4680
Response Variant	Your Variant
AA	GA

Your Response

Typical

## Implications

Since you possess the GG or GA variant of the COMT gene, you have a typical sensitivity to pain. To increase your pain tolerance even further, there are several strategies that you can use such as practicing deep breathing, and changing negative thoughts to positive thoughts when you are undergoing pain. For example, if you are out running, try to shift your focus away from the discomfort you may be feeling in your muscles, and focus on how the running is positively impacting your health. Exercising more often can also help to decrease pain perception during physical activity.

You have a typical sensitivity to pain.

# Pain

Pain is an unpleasant feeling triggered by the nervous system that can be mild to severe. Pain tolerance refers to the maximum amount of pain that someone can withstand. Pain threshold is a term that refers to the point where you begin to feel pain that causes discomfort to a degree at which it is difficult for you to withstand. For example a threshold at which you cannot continue to exercise at a certain intensity due to the intense level of discomfort. There are substantial differences in the way, or the degree at which people feel pain. Overall, men tend to have higher pain tolerances than women. Research now shows that variations in the COMT gene also impact how we feel and perceive pain\*.

\* Zubieta et al. COMT val[sup158]met genotype affects  $\mu$ -Opioid Neurotransmitter Responses to a Pain Stressor. *Sci.* 2003;299:1240-1243.  
 Tamminen A, Männistö PT. Catechol-O-methyltransferase gene polymorphism and chronic human pain: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Pharmacogenet Genomics.* 2012;22(9):673-91.

## COMT

The Catechol-O-methyltransferase (COMT) gene is involved in pathways in the body that process pain signals. Because of this, researchers have studied how variations in this gene can impact our perception of pain. Studies show that the COMT gene is a significant predictor of pain tolerance. Specifically, individuals with the AA variant tend to experience more pain compared to GG or GA variants.

# Achilles Tendon Injury

Your Achilles tendon starts at the bones in your heels and continues up to your calf muscles. It is one of the largest and strongest tendons in the human body. This tendon gives you the ability to point your toes and extend your foot. Unfortunately, injuries to the Achilles tendon are common. They typically arise from doing exercises that require a sudden surge of energy. Symptoms of an Achilles tendon injury include extreme pain, tenderness, swelling, or stiffness along the back of your foot and above your heel. Your risk of developing an Achilles tendon injury depends in part on the COL5A1 gene\*.

\* September AV et al. Variants within the COL5A1 gene are associated with Achilles tendinopathy in two populations. *Brit J Sport Med.* 2009;43:357-365.

## COL5A1

The COL5A1 gene directs the body to produce a protein called collagen alpha-1(V) chain, which plays an important role in the creation of collagen. Collagen is the protein that is used to make connective tissues in the body. Because of the COL5A1 gene's role in the creation of connective tissue, scientists have studied the link between this gene and Achilles tendon injury risk. It is now understood that individuals with the CT or TT variant of COL5A1 have a higher risk for developing an Achilles tendon injury.



1 in 5

People with Risk Variant

## Your Results

Gene	Marker
COL5A1	rs12722
Risk Variant	Your Variant
CT or TT	CC

Your Risk

Typical

## Implications

Since you possess the CC variant of the COL5A1 gene, you have a typical risk of developing an Achilles tendon injury. To decrease your risk, be mindful of activities requiring a surge of energy or overextension of this tendon through certain exercises such as uphill running. Preventive measures also include additional stretching of your calf muscles and increasing the duration of your warm up and cool down during exercise sessions.

You have a typical risk for Achilles tendon injury.

# International Science Advisory Board

## Ahmed El-Sohemy, PhD

Dr. Ahmed El-Sohemy is the Founder of Nutrigenomix Inc. and serves as the President and Chief Scientific Officer. He also serves as Chair of Nutrigenomix's International Science Advisory Board (SAB), which consists of key opinion leaders in the field of nutrigenomics. Dr. El-Sohemy obtained his PhD from the University of Toronto and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Harvard School of Public Health. He currently holds a Canada Research Chair in Nutrigenomics at the University of Toronto and serves on Health Canada's Science Advisory Board. Dr. El-Sohemy has published in the top scientific and medical journals with more than 100 peer-reviewed publications and has given more than 150 invited talks around the world. He is on the editorial board of 8 journals, and has served as an expert reviewer for more than 30 different scientific and medical journals and 12 research granting agencies. He has been a member of international expert advisory panels and scientific advisory boards of several organizations.

## David Castle, PhD

David Castle is Professor and Chair of Innovation in the Life Sciences at the University of Edinburgh. His research focuses on social aspects of life science innovation including democratic engagement, regulation and governance, and intellectual property and knowledge management. Prof. Castle is a world-renowned expert on the social, ethical and legal aspects of nutrigenomics. He is author of a book entitled *Science, Society, and the Supermarket: The Opportunities and Challenges of Nutrigenomics*, and has published extensively on the social dimensions of science, technology and innovation. Prof. Castle has held several major research awards and has considerable experience leading strategic research initiatives and research project management. Prof. Castle has consulted widely to government and industry on issues such as the impact of national technology transfer policies and programs, intellectual property and knowledge management strategies, and the role of non-scientific considerations in the regulation of science and technology.

## Lynnette R Ferguson, D.Phil. (Oxon.), DSc

Dr. Lynn Ferguson is Program Leader of Nutrigenomics New Zealand. She obtained her D.Phil. from Oxford University working on DNA damage and repair. After her return to New Zealand, she began working as part of the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre, using mutagenicity testing as a predictor of carcinogenesis. In 2000, she took on a 50% role as Head of a new Discipline of Nutrition at The University of Auckland. She has recently been investigating the interplay between genes and diet in the development of chronic disease, with particular focus on Inflammatory Bowel Disease. As Program Leader of Nutrigenomics New Zealand she is working with a range of others to bring nutrigenomics tools to the New Zealand science scene. She has supervised more than 30 students and has more than 300 peer reviewed publications. Dr. Ferguson serves as one of the managing Editors for *Mutation Research: Fundamental and Molecular Mechanisms of Mutation*, as well as on the Editorial Boards of several other major journals.

## J. Bruce German, PhD

Bruce German is the Director of the Foods for Health Institute at the University of California Davis, and is Professor of Food Science and Technology (<http://ffhi.ucdavis.edu/>). Dr German received his PhD from Cornell University and joined the faculty at the University of California (Davis) in 1988. In 1997, he was named the first John E. Kinsella Endowed Chair in Food, Nutrition and Health. His research interests in personalised nutrition include the structure and function of dietary lipids, the role of milk components in food and health and the application of metabolic assessment to personalizing diet and health. Dr German has published more than 350 papers and holds a number of patents related to various technologies and applications of bioactive food components. The research articles from his lab rank in the top 5 most cited in the field.

## David Jenkins, MD, DSc, PhD

Dr. Jenkins earned his MD and PhD at Oxford University, and is currently a Professor in both the Departments of Medicine and Nutritional Sciences at the University of Toronto. He is also a staff physician in the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism and the Director of the Clinical Nutrition and Risk Factor Modification Center, St. Michael's Hospital. Dr Jenkins has published over 300 peer reviewed articles and given hundreds of invited talks around the world. He has served on numerous international committees to set guidelines for the treatment of diabetes and most recently on the new joint United States-Canada DRI system (RDAs) of the National Academy of Sciences. His team was the first to define and explore the concept of the glycaemic index of foods and demonstrate the breadth of metabolic effects of viscous soluble fiber. He has received many national and International awards in recognition of his contribution to nutrition research. Dr Jenkins currently holds a Canada Research Chair in Nutrition and Metabolism.

## Jose Ordovas, PhD

Jose M. Ordovas is Professor of Nutrition and Director of the Nutrigenomics Laboratory at the United States Department of Agriculture, Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University in Boston. After obtaining his PhD from the University of Zaragoza, Spain, he completed postdoctoral work at Harvard, MIT and Tufts University. Dr Ordovas' major research interests focus on the genetic factors predisposing to cardiovascular disease and their interaction with environmental factors. Dr Ordovas has published ~700 articles in peer reviewed journals, and written numerous reviews and edited 5 books on nutrigenomics. He has been an invited speaker at hundreds of International meetings all over the world and is currently a member of the Institute of Medicine's Food and Nutrition Board (National Academies). He serves as Editor for *Current Opinion in Lipidology (Genetics Section)*, and on the Editorial Board of numerous journals. Dr Ordovas is a Member of Honor of the Spanish Society of Atherosclerosis and has received other awards for his contributions to the field of nutrigenomics.

## Ben van Ommen, PhD

Dr. Ben van Ommen is Director of the Nutrigenomics Organisation (NuGO) and Principal Scientist at TNO, one of the largest independent research organisations in the area of nutrition world-wide. He is also Director of the TNO systems biology program and leading the activities on nutrigenomics, nutritional systems biology, personalised health and personalised medicine. His research applies systems biology to metabolic health and metabolic disease, focusing on understanding all relevant processes involved in maintaining optimal health and causing specific disease sub-phenotypes, developing new biomarkers and treatment strategies.

## Nanci Guest, RD, MSc, CSCS, PhD(c)

Nanci Guest is a registered dietitian (sport), certified personal trainer and a certified strength and conditioning specialist, and she has been working in private practice in this field for almost two decades. She is currently completing her doctoral research in the area of nutrigenomics and athletic performance at the University of Toronto. She completed her BSc in agriculture and dietetics, and her MSc in nutritional sciences with a sport focus at the University of British Columbia. She has published her research in top journals, presented at international meetings and has given dozens of invited talks around the world. Ms Guest is a global consultant to professional and amateur athletes and teams. She was the Head Dietitian at both the Vancouver 2010 Olympics and the Toronto 2015 Pan Am games, and served as a consultant to top Russian athletes in preparation for the Sochi 2014 and Rio 2016 Olympics. She was also involved in creating formal nutrition guidelines for athletes for the International Olympic Committee.



This report is for information purposes only and is not intended to be used as medical advice. The advice in this report is not intended to treat, diagnose or cure any medical condition or disease. It is intended for general health and wellness purposes only and is not specific to clients who require a specific nutrition care plan based on a certain disease or condition. Clients with medical conditions should not change or stop their medications or medical care without consulting with their physician first. The advice in this report is not intended for children or for women who are pregnant or nursing. The Nutrigenomix Health and Wellness panel has not been cleared or approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration. If you have any questions, please ask your healthcare provider or contact us at [info@nutrigenomix.com](mailto:info@nutrigenomix.com). For Terms of Use and Privacy information please visit our website at [www.nutrigenomix.com](http://www.nutrigenomix.com).



# NUTRIGENOMIX<sup>®</sup>

EAT ACCORDING TO YOUR GENES



For more information on this report contact:

Nutrigenomix Inc

[info@nutrigenomix.com](mailto:info@nutrigenomix.com)



15151112090713-e