

# **Anti-Inflammatory Diets**

Anti-inflammatory eating patterns focus on whole, nutrient-rich foods that nourish your body and support your body's natural healing processes. This type of diet is associated with reduced chronic inflammation.

Chronic, systemic inflammation is a serious health concern that can be worsened or improved with the foods you eat. Some foods and eating patterns have anti-inflammatory properties while others have proinflammatory effects.

Following an anti-inflammatory eating pattern may help reduce body wide inflammation.

#### What is Inflammation?

Inflammation is your body's way of protecting itself from infection, illness, or injury. Acute inflammation is a short-term response (hours to days) to an injury or infection which helps initiate healing and typically causes visible symptoms like swelling and redness. However chronic inflammation is a long-lasting response (months to years) which can persist even after the harmful stimulus is gone. Chronic inflammation has been linked to a wide range of health conditions like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, persistent pain and arthritis.

# Anti-Inflammatory Diet Benefits:

- Reduces inflammation: The primary benefit is a potential reduction in chronic inflammation, which can help manage pain and improve overall health.
- Improved pain management: For individuals with persistent pain / chronic pain, an anti-inflammatory diet may help to reduce pain sensitivity and improve pain management. Anti-inflammatory diets can help reduce joint pain and stiffness in rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis and can help manage pain and inflammation associated with endometriosis and lipedema.
- Chronic disease prevention: By reducing inflammation, an anti-inflammatory diet may help lower the risk of conditions like heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and certain cancers.

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## **Anti-Inflammatory Diet Principles:**

The core of an anti-inflammatory diet is to prioritise whole, colourful, unprocessed foods that are rich in nutrients. While no single food can eliminate inflammation, adopting long-term, balanced eating patterns is key to supporting overall health.

### **Emphasise:**

- Colourful fruits and vegetables rich in antioxidants and phytochemicals
- Whole grains such as oats, quinoa, and brown rice
- Omega-3 fatty acids from fish, flaxseeds, chia seeds, and walnuts
- Lean proteins including legumes, tofu, fish, and skinless poultry
- Healthy fats like extra virgin olive oil and avocado
- Herbs and spices such as turmeric, ginger, cinnamon, and garlic.

#### Limit or avoid:

- Red and processed meats including beef, bacon, sausages and deli meats
- Fried foods such as fried chips, fried chicken and donuts
- Refined carbohydrates including white bread and pastries
- Processed snack foods like chips, cookies, cakes and pies
- Added sugars found in soft drinks, flavoured milks, lollies, desserts and many packaged foods
- Alcohol especially in excess quantities
- Highly processed or ultra-processed foods found in fast food outlets and packaged foods high in added sugars, saturated and trans fats, and salt

# Consult With a Nutrition Specialist

Whether you're managing chronic pain, lipedema, endometriosis, arthritis or working on long-term health goals, an individualised anti-inflammatory diet pattern can be a valuable part of a nutrition approach.

An accredited dietitian will assess your individual health history and goals to develop a tailored dietary plan that addresses inflammation, corrects nutrient deficiencies, and prov<mark>ide</mark>s practical meal tips backed by evidence-based advice.

Ready to take the next step in your journey? Book a consultation today to receive practical, compassionate support tailored to your stage of life and unique needs.