

## **Keeping your Gut in Check**

The Gastrointestinal Tract (GI), also called the second brain, has a multitude of neural connections and analyzes millions of substances to protect our body from toxins and aid our immune system. All diseases may depend on GI health. However, unhealthy GI occurs in one of every three people, resulting in cancer and many chronic diseases. Colon cancer has become the most commonly occurring cancer. Thus, maintaining a healthy GI is very important.

## **GI Problems**

**Indigestion:** The stomach is the most important digestive organ. Here, protein is broken down to amino acids when a sufficient level of gastric acid activates the enzyme. If gastric acid levels are too low, digestion and utilization of protein ceases. The resultant malabsorption and malnutrition, weakens the immune and other organ systems.

**Bloating:** The most common sources of gas forming in the GI are the mouth, and the GI itself. The main gases formed, (hydrogen, methane, and CO2), result primarily from the fermentation of bad bacteria. Thus, when undigested food enters the intestine, it produces significant gas after fermentation.

**Constipation:** Defined as three or fewer bowel movements per week, constipation results in serious risks including: intestinal nerve damage, unbalanced diet, environmental, and emotional issues. If the problem persists, hemorrhoids, anal fissure, chronic abdominal pain, and anal sphincter dysfunction may occur. Also, if stool waste and toxins remain in the colon too long, their reabsorption can result in cell mutation and cancerous cell development.

Nutrients	Function				
Nutrazyme	<ul> <li>Enzyme Sources: papaya-, pineapple-, vegetables, turmeric powder, ginger extract</li> <li>Increases digestive ability and energy necessary for biological functions.</li> </ul>				
Flora Rich	<ul> <li>Contains: Lactobacillus acidophilus, Bifidobacterium bifidum, Lactobacillus bulgaricus, Bifidobacterium longum, Streptococcus thermophilus.</li> <li>Regulates bowel movements.</li> </ul>				
Green Barley	<ul> <li>Rich in antioxidants, enzymes, vitamin B complex, protein, dietary fiber, chlorophyll, minerals.</li> <li>Neutralizes stomach acid and prevents</li> </ul>				

constipation.

Maintaining a healthy liver can help normalize

enzyme, which aids digesting dietary fat.

gallbladder secreting bile acid and digestive

**HepCare** 

Please check the comment(s) that apply to you, record the total, and determine your GI Health from score table below. (Each cell worth 1 point.)							
Diet	Bowl Movement			Life Style			
Often skip breakfast Breakfast in a hurry Unscheduled meal time Lack of fruits & vegetables High meat intake No dairy products Eat out > 4 times weekly Soda and sugary drinks Often eat late		Feel - Hard Small Some Dark, Stool Unsch	stool stool times very sof black stool and gas smell neduled bowl sinks to the be	movements ottom	Smoke Aging skin Acne Lack of exercise Difficulty sleeping, Lack of sleep High Stress Always in a hurry Lack of sleep		
Score Table: Determine your GI Age and Health based on your GI Health Test.							
Score	0	<4	5-10	11-14	>16		
GI Age = Actual Age (AA) +	AA	AA+5	AA+10	AA+20	+30		
Comment	Healthy		Aged	Declining	Very Poor		
	ОК	Maintain	Improve diet	Total change diet patter	Consult your health professional		

**Gastrointestinal Health Test**