

OPTIMAL HEALTH UNIVERSITY™

Presented by Dr. Bonnie Verhunce

Probiotics: Bacteria for Good Health

You may have heard the term “probiotics” lately. Probiotics are bacteria with the potential to provide profound health benefits. Dr. Bonnie confirms that these “good bacteria” can play starring roles in your picture of optimal health.

Probiotics: Bacteria for Good Health

There’s a battle going on in your body, every minute of every day. As part of your immune system, millions of microscopic bacteria constantly defend your body. According to Dr. Bonnie, the balance between the white hats — good bacteria, or probiotics — and the black hats — disease-causing pathogens and viruses — is surprisingly delicate.

The World Health Organization defines probiotics as “live organisms which when administered in adequate

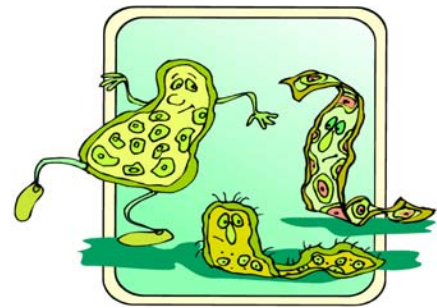
amounts confer a health benefit on the host.” Dr. Bonnie agrees that science has proven that common types of bacteria can bestow myriad advantages.

Probiotics Primer

There are three types of ingestible bacterial biotics:

Probiotics: Live organisms that, when administered in adequate amounts, confer a health benefit

Prebiotics: Non-digestible food ingredients that selectively stimulate the growth and/or activity of specific bac-



teria in the colon to improve wellness

Synbiotics: A combination of prebiotics and probiotics

General families of probiotic bacteria include *Lactobacillus*, *Bifidobacterium* and *Streptococcus*.

Probiotics are available as a powdered supplement. Additional good sources of probiotics include organic kefir and organic yogurt.

Specific Benefits

The “short list” of the positive effects of probiotics includes:

- Reduction of cancer-promoting gut enzymes
- Prevention of respiratory tract infections
- Relief from gastrointestinal (GI) inflammation and related diseases
- Prevention and relief of diarrhea and constipation
- Prevention of allergies
- Alleviation of lactose intolerance
- Treatment of urogenital infections

There are also strong indications that probiotics help with certain types of heart and autoimmune disease, and prevent dental cavities (*Adv Biochem Eng Biotechnol* 2008;111:1-66).

Dr. Bonnie Verhunce

Suggests Chiropractic Plus Probiotics for These Conditions

GI Tract Disruption

- ✓ For many GI complaints, chiropractic adjustments may bring immediate and dramatic improvement (*J Manipulative Physiol Ther* 2007;30:65-8).
- ✓ Patients with inflammatory bowel disease use chiropractic to reduce pain, cramping, bloating and diarrhea (*Am J Gastroenterol* 2004;889-93).

Allergies

- ✓ Following chiropractic adjustment, patients with allergy symptoms experienced relief, which lasted longer as care continued (*J Manipulative Physiol* 1995;18:38-41).
- ✓ Allergy patients, including those with eczema, find that chiropractic adjustments work well with traditional therapies (*Eur J Pediatr* 2003;162:334-41).

Lactose Intolerance

- ✓ For infants who have trouble digesting cow’s milk, chiropractic care and dietary modification improve — or eliminate — the problem (*J Manipulative Physiol Ther* 2006;29:469-74).

Dr. Bonnie Verhunce, Vitality Chiropractic (206) 824-5521
21904 Marine View Drive South, Suite C, Des Moines, WA 98198
www.vitalitychiropractic.com

New research infers that one strain of bacteria, *Bifidobacterium infantis* 35624, aids the entire body (*PLoS Pathog* 2008;4:e1000112). This bacterium combats dangerous pathogens that not only are associated with gastrointestinal problems, but also may suppress inflammation — an immune system response that sometimes goes haywire.

In addition, probiotics may guard the intestine's mucus barrier, which could thwart gastric cancer (*Immunopharmacol Immuntotoxicol* 2008;30:503-18).

Finally, a new animal study concludes that oral probiotic treatment can decrease both insulin resistance and the effects of a high-fat diet on the liver (*J Hepatol* 2008, Epub). It may also ease faulty inflammatory signaling.

Bacteria for Babies?

A newborn baby's clean digestive system quickly becomes populated with "millions of competing microorganisms" as he or she begins to eat and interact with the world. At birth, these varied bacteria begin a lifelong dance in the body, with the balance between beneficial and destructive microbes continually adjusting.

Though it may seem counterintuitive, certain bacteria can be introduced into infants to build immunity to allergies and infection, particularly respiratory illness (*Pediatrics* 2008;122:8-12). These good germs continue to bolster resistance to disease throughout the first two years of life.

Early probiotic intervention is so important that Yale University School of Medicine recommends it to treat and prevent several types of childhood diarrhea (*J Clin Gastroenterol* 2008;42:S104-8). Yale also suggests using probiotics to trigger an immune response, which can lessen complications from cow's milk allergy.

Immune System: Bacterial Foot Soldiers

In the immune system, hundreds of species of microbiota (miniature life forms) jockey to maintain homeostasis, or balance (*Inflamm Bowel Dis*

2008, Epub). This commotion sparks immune actions and responses that fight disease.

Many of these battles occur in the GI tract, where research has shown that probiotics can modulate the immune system (*Curr Opin Allergy Clin Immunol* 2008;8:243-8). These bacteria may also prevent and treat a spectrum of food allergies.

A comprehensive, three-year Italian study determined that probiotics can ward off infectious respiratory maladies, such as cold and flu, and strengthen intestinal function (*J Clin Gastroenterol* 2008, Epub). When illness is contracted, the same bacteria reduce severity and duration.

The Italian study also advises regular, long-term intake of *synbiotics*, a potent blend of both pre- and probiotics, to improve physical well-being. Synbiotics can also make colds less frequent and less serious.

While the immune system activates when invaders trespass, probiotics can stop pathogens from moving into the body *at all*. Probiotic microorganisms interfere with the ability of unwelcome visitors to establish colonies and mount attacks from inside the body (*J Clin Gastroenterol* 2008, Epub).

Gastrointestinal Benefits Galore

Some of the most pronounced demonstrations of probiotic efficacy are against diarrhea (*Asia Pac J Clin Nutr* 2006;15:558-62). This affliction has many causes; it can be diet or virus-related, or caused by antibiotics, which upset the equilibrium of gut bacteria.

Another frequent cause of diarrhea is lactose intolerance. Again, probiotics come to the rescue. A Czech Republic study shows that ordinary probiotics can diminish the digestive problems linked to milk products (*Ceska Slov Farm* 2008;57:95-8).

Probiotics also neutralize hazardous intruders that can wreak havoc in the GI tract. A Brazilian laboratory trial successfully used kefir — creamy, fermented cow's milk — to inhibit threatening microbes, such as salmo-

nella, staph and E. coli (*Appl Biochem Biotechnol* 2008, Epub).

IBS and Constipation

Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) is the most common diagnosis in gastroenterology. New techniques have identified that a bacterial imbalance in the upper small intestine may cause much of the pain and misery of IBS (*J Clin Gastroenterol* 2008, Epub). The good news is that probiotics are effective at relieving these unpleasant symptoms (*Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2008;27:48-57). Plus, the *Journal of Family Practice* lists probiotics as a top treatment for IBS. (Source: *New York Times Health* 9.02.08.)

Constipation, another widespread condition, affects up to 27 percent of the Western population (*Curr Opin Pharmacol* 2008, Epub). One study found that helpful probiotic bacteria, in yogurt and fermented milk, relieved bloating and other symptoms, and increased stool frequency (*Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2007;26:475-86).

Bone Health

Strong bones are essential for longevity. *Prebiotics* have been proven to have positive effects on mineral absorption and on bone composition and architecture (*J Nutr* 2007;137:838S-46S). Other advantages include widening the surface areas that soak up minerals, and multiplying the proteins that bring calcium into the bones.

Please Ask for More Information

Ask us for more information today about good bacteria, and find out how to use them alongside chiropractic care to become an altogether *healthier you!*

Reminder: Consult your doctor of chiropractic before starting any supplementation program for you or any family member, including probiotics.

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