

The Science of a Healthier Life™LifeExtension.comJuly 2020

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# The Science of Youthful Immune Function



PLUS: Many COVID-19 Tests Yield Misleading Results

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July 2020

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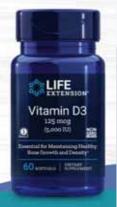
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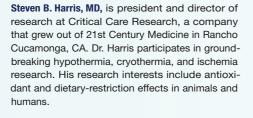
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# The COVID-19 Conundrum

## The media have generated thousands of stories, but omitted some critical details...



WILLIAM FALOON

The disease caused by the **SARS-CoV-2** <u>virus</u> is called **COVID-19**.

On some days more Americans **die** from **COVID-19** than *any* other illness. Those with significant disease are in need of better **treatment** options.

As I was writing this article, there remained a lack of high-quality, rigorous data about **validated** treatments, especially for severe COVID-19 disease.

This dearth of knowledge prompted me to work around-the-clock to identify therapies that may reduce the risk of a patient worsening to **severe** or **critical** stage COVID-19 disease.

#### **Avoiding Mechanical Ventilation**

During the initial COVID-19 outbreak, the media focused on the **shortage** of hospital **ventilators**.

It was as if intubation using **mechani**cal ventilators would result in favorable patient outcomes or outright cures.

The reality is that large numbers of severe COVID-19 hospitalized patients did <u>not</u> survive the **ventilator**. It merely delayed death by several weeks.

Those who survived often suffered significant **organ damage**.

The purpose of this editorial is to convey possible strategies for a symptomatic COVID-19 patient to discuss with their physician.

These experimental tactics, if successful, might enable severe COVID-19 patients to avoid disease progression and invasive **mechanical ventilation**.

I also describe why COVID-19 **tests** are <u>not</u> the panacea the government and media often portray them to be.



#### **Unreliable Testing**

The lay public and medical professionals have been misled and confused by relentless reports about **testing** for the **virus** that causes COVID-19 disease.

We at Life Extension<sup>®</sup> were inundated in early March 2020 with proposals from accredited laboratories to offer PCR (polymerase chain reaction) tests to our readers, aimed at detecting acute COVID-19 infection.

Credentialed labs also proposed that we offer **blood tests** to detect **antibodies** to the **SARS-CoV-2** virus.

We rejected <u>all</u> these **tests** because of concern that these tests might not be accurate.

Our apprehensions have been borne out.

The initial **PCR** screening tests involved sticking a swab deep into the **sinuses** and back of the **throat** (nasopharyngeal swab).

Another collection method involved testing samples of **saliva** in a cup. The objective of collecting these samples was to use **PCR** analysis to detect the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 **virus**. Although **PCR** is a validated technology, preliminary research by experts in lab testing suggest that up to **30%** of results with **PCR** tests are **false-negative**.<sup>1,2</sup>

This is in a large degree due to inadequate **specimen collection**, but also related to reagent issues, machine testing peculiarities, and a variety of other problems.

The consequence of such a high **false-negative** rate is that many symptomatic persons were told they were <u>not</u> infected with the novel coronavirus when they really were.

The **antibody** blood tests were also suspect. Reasons include **false-positive** test results caused by other common cold coronaviruses (cross-reactivity with the test).<sup>3</sup>

LabCorp now offers a vastly improved IgG antibody test you can order yourself on their website for as low as **\$10-12** depending on your health insurance. As you'll read next, we don't know what the practical value of these **antibody** tests will be.

#### Do SARS-CoV-2 Antibodies Confer Immunity?

There is lack of medical consensus as to whether a positive **IgG** antibody test indicates **long-term immunity** that might protect against a future (whether new or relapsed) **COVID-19** infection.<sup>4,5</sup>

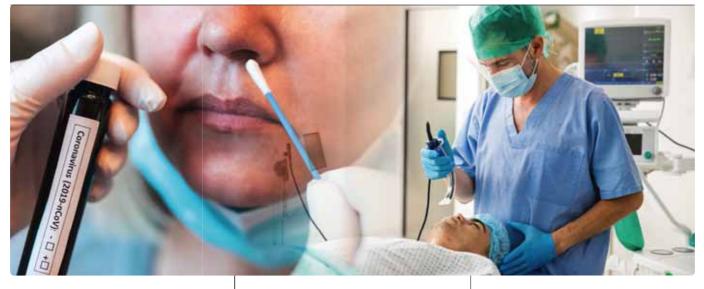
What **immunity** means *after* infection with the SARS-CoV-2 virus is <u>not</u> clear at the time of this writing.

Questions linger, such as: Will recovered patients have **immunity**? And if so, will it last a few months? A year? Can patients infected once with COVID-19 be infected again, despite having had a **positive IgG antibody** test?

These are but some of several unknowns related to COVID-19 immunity at the time of writing this editorial.

**False-positive** test results are especially worrisome with blood **antibody** tests because this conveys a false sense of security (i.e. presence of immunity) when in fact the individual may still be at risk for infection, or re-infection, with COVID-19.





We were concerned about inaccurate **false-negative PCR** results during screening for acute infection. Even with improved SARS/Cov-2 **antibody** tests, we worry about **misinterpreting** the results when attempting to identify individuals who have developed **immunity**.

We await solid data as to how effective having **antibodies** to the **SARS-CoV-2 virus** is at conferring long-term **immunity** against **COVID-19** disease.

#### Startling Data Published in JAMA

Severe COVID-19 patients placed on mechanical **ventilators** have high **mortality** rates. Those who survive ventilator support often encounter systemic **co-morbidities** along with muscle atrophy.

A study published in **JAMA** summarized the demographics, comorbidities, and outcomes of 5,700 COVID-19 patients hospitalized during the first pandemic wave in New York City.<sup>6</sup>

This study found that **24.5%** of patients who received mechanical **ventilation** <u>died</u> and most remained hospitalized.

When the study was released, the following data were reported about

patients who needed mechanical **ventilation**:

- 72% remained hospitalized
- 1 out of every 4 died
- Only 3.3% were discharged from the hospital at time of publication

Those who survive prolonged **ventilator** support often suffer damage to their kidneys, heart, brain, and lungs.<sup>7,8</sup>

These **systemic** injuries are likely inflicted by a combination of:<sup>9</sup>

- The SARS-CoV-2 virus
- Pro-inflammatory cytokine storm
- Hyper-coagulation of blood
- Mechanical **ventilation** and long hospitalization

Better treatments are desperately needed to <u>decrease</u> the risk and progression of severe infection and reduce the need for invasive **mechanical ventilation**.

As I was finalizing this editorial, an article was published in the *Wall Street Journal* on May 11, 2020 titled:

#### "Some Doctors Pull Back on Using Ventilators to Treat Covid-19"

This article described different hospital treatment options, including having patients lie on their front side (prone position) to receive noninvasive **high flow oxygen** in lieu of mechanical **ventilation**.

Life Extension<sup>®</sup> added this suggestion to our "Respiratory Support Protocol" on April 16, 2020 that you can view at:

www.LifeExtension.com/immune

#### Challenge to Keep You Informed

I wrote several versions of this editorial describing studies suggesting novel strategies to potentially avoid progression to severe disease with COVID-19.

My problem is that as fast as I write something of value, <u>new</u> data emerge. And due to the novelty of this SARS coronavirus, there is a lack of high-quality, rigorous, peerreviewed data on which I normally insist.

But these are not "normal" times. Thousands of lives are lost daily to this global pandemic. AS WE SEE IT



Advances in our understanding of how to better treat COVID-19 with **experimental interventions** could spare many lives—particularly if the understanding and interventions came sooner rather than later.

In lieu of printing these rapidly evolving **treatment options**, these insights are available on another website: **age-reversal-covid.net** 

Some information on this website discusses what one might do if progression from "mild/moderate" to "severe/critical" COVID-19 disease occurs.

The objective of these postings is to provide updates that can be discussed with treating physicians.

Much of the information about COVID-19 is subject to radical change as new and better-quality data emerge.

#### Why COVID-19 is Different

Back in the 1980s-1990s, **Life Extension**<sup>®</sup> fought a multi-decade battle with the **FDA** to force the approval of an **anti-viral** drug called **ribavirin.** 

When **ribavirin** was combined with **interferon-alpha**, treatment outcomes in **hepatitis C** patients markedly improved. Today's **hepatitis C** drugs (like Sovaldi<sup>®</sup>) are curing over **95%** of patients. Yet, when these drugs were approved in **2013-2014**, most still relied on co-administration of **ribavirin**.

More recent **hepatitis C protocols** are combining Sovaldi<sup>®</sup> with newer drugs (in lieu of ribavirin) to eradicate hepatitis C.

We have no financial interest in **ribavirin**. We identified its efficacy in the early **1980s** and relayed this information to our supporters. The FDA did not approve **ribavirin** until **1998.** Our efforts to <u>accelerate</u> approval of **ribavirin** may have saved thousands of American lives.

The challenge with **COVID-19** is there are <u>no</u> historic data sets to make definitive treatment suggestions like there were for **ribavirin**.

We are, instead, dealing with a rapidly changing series of experimental COVID-19 interventions with no tightly controlled studies to substantiate them.

### New Website to Help Keep You Updated

The emergency nature of the COVID-19 pandemic mandates an **open flow** of information from researchers and doctors practicing on the front lines treating COVID-19 patients.

Scattered reports from these doctors are revealing potential opportunities to spare the lives of severe and critical COVID-19 patients.

Yet the media only lightly describe these data or overlook them.

This motivated me to create a <u>new</u> website that discusses potential COVID-19 treatment options in lay language.

The objective is to provide physicians with concise information <u>and</u> enlighten COVID-19 patients about potential therapies to discuss with their physicians.

Please know this is not a "news" website. It serves as a channel to disseminate biomedical data.

If something about COVID-19 is widely reported in the media, it might not get on this website right away because the data are already in the public domain.

> Those interested in viewing these reports can visit: age-reversal-covid.net

#### LabCorp Offers Tests Direct to Consumers

LabCorp is offering SARS/Cov-2 antibody blood tests direct to the public at a very low price if you have health insurance or other forms of medical coverage. There is some bureaucracy to navigate that you can review on:

#### www.labcorp.com/antibody-testing

Life Extension does NOT sell these antibody tests. They are available direct from LabCorp, but most of the public cannot distinguish between these validated tests and some others that may not yet be thoroughly studied.

This **COVID-19 antibody** test can be ordered through your doctor, either in-person or through a telemedicine program if offered by your health plan or employer, or through some employee wellness plans.

The test can also be requested using an independent telemedicine physician service accessible at LabCorp's special website: www.labcorp.com/antibody-testing

(Article continues on next page.)

#### **COVID-19 Symptoms**

You've likely read about the initial **symptoms** of today's **novel coronavirus** (COVID-19) pandemic.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention currently lists them as:  $^{\mbox{\tiny 10}}$ 

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

Some people may display no symptoms (asymptomatic) yet still be capable of infecting others.

Those who experience symptoms sometimes describe COVID-19 as the worst viral infection they have ever encountered.

The miseries of COVID-19 disease can involve fluctuating periods of fever, often worse at night, as well as shortness of breath and extreme fatigue that may last for two weeks or longer. These sufferings are being reported by people with so-called "**mild to moderate**" disease that does not require **hospitalization**.

For "severe" and "critical" COVID-19 disease, hospitalization is required.

Some reports in the medical literature at the time of this writing suggest relapses of initial infection, which implies some patients may not fully clear the viral infection for a long time, yet remain **infectious**.



Once the test order is placed, your antibody blood draw can be done at nearly 2,000 LabCorp patient service centers.

As I wrote earlier, however, we don't yet know what the practical value of a positive IgG **antibody** test to the COVID-19 virus is as it relates to **immunity**.

If you choose to have this COVID-19 antibody test, consider at the same visit to LabCorp having your blood drawn for the **Male** or **Female Blood Test Panel**. We've extended the annual sale so you can obtain these comprehensive blood tests that cost over **\$2,000** at most commercial labs for only **\$224**.

To order any test (except COVID-19 PCR and antibody tests) direct from Life Extension, call 1-800-208-3444 or log on to www.LifeExtension.com/blood

#### In This Month's Issue...

Fascinating human and animal data reveal **anti-aging** effects in response to **low-dose** intake of the mineral **lithium**.

The first article in this month's issue describes an array of benefits that have been discovered about **lith-ium's** ability to slow **brain aging** and enhance one's feeling of wellbeing.

Back in 1981, *Life Extension*<sup>®</sup> published the first of dozens of articles about the longevity-enhancing potential of **DHEA**. The article on page 48 expounds on an abundance of published data revealing DHEA's systemic health benefits.

What I like about **lithium** and **DHEA** is they are **low-cost** and can readily be added to one's personal health program.

On the flip side, the article on page 71 describes the enormous challenges a **leukemia** patient went through after undergoing brutal conventional treatments but ends on a happy note we hope you'll appreciate.

For decades we've published articles about the adverse impact of **immune senescence**. Two articles in this month's issue discuss **non-drug** approaches to help circumvent certain aspects of age-related immune <u>decline</u>.



Nothing in these articles is meant to imply any kind of preventative effect against **SARS-CoV-2**, for which there is insufficient information to make science-based recommendations, based on **Life Extension's** strict evidence-based publication criteria.

For longer life,

William Faloon, Co-Founder Life Extension<sup>®</sup>

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# Tap the <u>Power</u> of N-Acetyl-L-Cysteine

## TO BOOST GLUTATHIONE LEVELS

**N-Acetyl-L-Cysteine** supports healthy levels of *glutathione*, a molecule utilized by all cells for protection against free-radical damage and attacks from foreign compounds.

Item #01534 • 60 capsules 1 bottle **\$10.50** 4 bottles \$9.25 each

# For full product description and to order **N-Acetyl-L-Cysteine**, call **1-800-544-4440** or visit **www.LifeExtension.com**

CAUTION: Those who supplement with NAC should drink 6 to 8 glasses of water daily in order to prevent cysteine renal stones. Cysteine renal stones are rare but do occur.

N-Acetyl-L-Cysteine

600 mg

Boosts Cellular Glutathione Levels

60 CAPSULES DIFTARY

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## NON-STOP

# *"Thanks,* **Ultra Prostate** Formula."

#### Ultra Prostate Formula can help:

- Support healthy urination
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Super Selenium Supports HEART and BRAIN HEALTH

# Linked to Longevity

Selenium's longevity power comes from its ability to offer powerful protection throughout the body, including heart support, brain support, and healthy cell division.<sup>12</sup>

**Super Selenium Complex** has three different forms of selenium—each of which uniquely acts along a different pathway to support healthy cell division.

- Sodium selenite
- L-selenomethionine
- Selenium-Methyl L-Selenocysteine

For full product description and to order Super Selenium Complex, call 1-800-544-4440 or visit www.LifeExtensioncom Item #01778 • 100 vegetarian capsules 1 bottle **\$10.50** 4 bottles \$9 each

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Super Selenium

Complex 200 mcg &

## Each bottle provides a supply that lasts more than three months.

**CAUTION:** If you are taking anticoagulant or antiplatelet medications, or have a bleeding disorder, consult your healthcare provider before taking this product.

**References** 1. *Biol Trace Elem Res.* 2004 Oct;101(1):73-86.



2. Biol Trace Elem Res. 2014 Sep;142(3):274-83

Higher Potency at Discount Pricing

# **NAD+ Cell Regenerator** TURN ON YOUR CELLULAR ENERGY

Optimized NAD<sup>+</sup> Cell Regenerator™ combines 300 mg of nicotinamide riboside with resveratrol and other plant extracts.

For those already taking resveratrol, we also offer **NAD<sup>+</sup> Cell Regenerator**<sup>™</sup> that provides **300 mg** of **nicotinamide riboside**.

The only **online** source of these **NAD**<sup>+</sup> formulas is **LifeExtension.com** (or by calling 1-800-544-4440).



NAD<sup>+</sup> Cell Regenerator<sup>™</sup> Item #02344 • 30 vegetarian capsules

1 bottle \*

Optimized NAD<sup>+</sup> Cell Regenerator™ Item #02348 • 30 vegetarian capsules 1 bottle \*

\* For pricing available to readers of this magazine, call 1-800-544-4440 or visit LifeExtension.com/NAD

For full product description and to order NAD<sup>+</sup> Cell Regenerator<sup>™</sup> or Optimized NAD<sup>+</sup> Cell Regenerator<sup>™</sup> with Resveratrol, call 1-800-544-4440 or visit www.LifeExtension.com

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# MAINTAIN A HEALTHY POST-INFLAMMATORY RESPONSE

## **PRO-RESOLVING MEDIATORS**

Specialized **Pro-Resolving Mediators** (**SPMs**) support a healthy relationship with inflammatory factors for whole-body health.

#### SPMs help:

- REMOVE: Support the body's natural process for clearing cellular debris.
- RESTORE: Help balance cytokines in the body.
- RENEW: Promote the regeneration of healthy tissues.

Specialized **Pro-Resolving Mediators** (**SPMs**) are derived from polyunsaturated fatty acids found in highly refined, marine-oil concentrate.

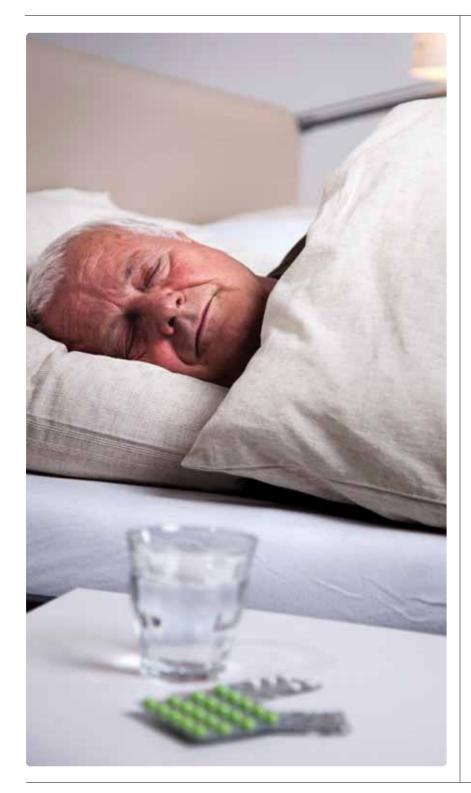


**Item #02223 •** 30 softgels 1 bottle **\$21** 4 bottles \$19 each



For full product description and to order **Pro-Resolving Mediators**, call 1-800-544-4440 or visit www.LifeExtension.com

# In the News



### Blood Pressure Medicine More Effective when Taken at Night

What time of day a patient takes blood pressure medicine can have an impact on its effectiveness, according to a study published in the *European Heart Journal*.\*

In the Hygia Chronotherapy Trial, researchers looked at data from more than 19,000 patients, comparing the results of people who took blood pressure drugs in the morning to those who took them at night.

Patients were followed for an average of more than six years, during which their ambulatory blood pressure was checked over a 48-hour period at least once a year.

Compared to patients who took their medication in the morning, those who took it at bedtime had **better-controlled** blood pressure and showed the following benefits:

- 1) 56% <u>reduced</u> risk of dying from heart or blood vessel problems
- 2) 49% reduced risk for stroke
- 3) **34%** <u>reduced</u> risk for **myocardial** infarction
- 4) **42%** <u>reduced</u> risk of for **heart failure**
- 5) **40%** <u>reduced</u> need of coronary re-stenting

Editor's Note: "Routine ingestion by hypertensive patients of [one or more] prescribed blood pressure-lowering medications at bedtime, as opposed to upon waking, results in improved [ambulatory blood pressure] control...and, most importantly, markedly diminished occurrence of major cardiovascular disease events," the study concluded.

\* Eur Heart J. 2019 Oct 22. pii: ehz754.

### Extra Virgin Olive Oil Benefits the Brain

Research conducted at Temple University's Lewis Katz School of Medicine indicates a brain benefit for supplemental extra virgin olive oil in older mice. The study was published in the journal *Aging Cell*.\*

Previously, positive effects were found for olive oil in mice that were genetically engineered to develop the amyloid deposits that characterize Alzheimer's disease.

The new study evaluated the oil's effects in mice engineered to develop defective tau proteins in the brain which block the communication of brain cells in Alzheimer's disease. "Remarkably, tau pathology strictly correlates with the severity of dementia," the authors stated.

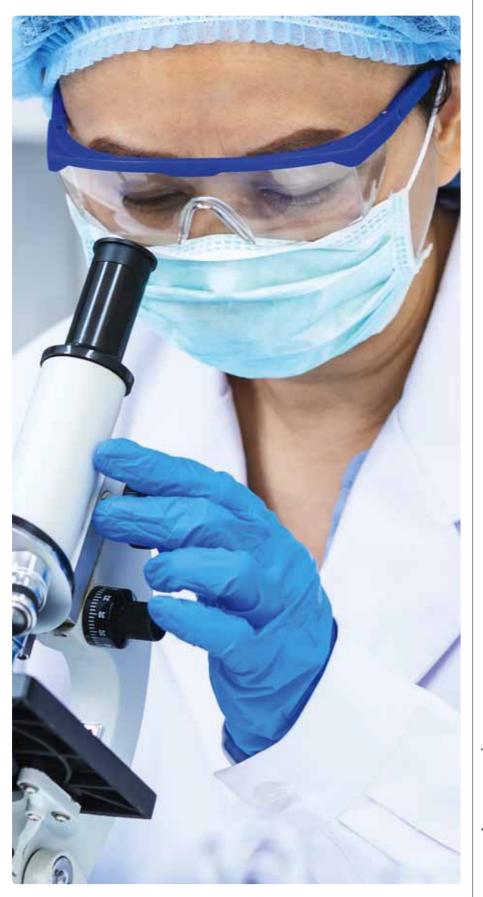
Beginning at six months of age, until the age of one year, the mice were fed a diet either with or without extra virgin olive oil. At the end of the study, mice that received the olive oil demonstrated better memory and cognition in comparison with the control group of mice, as well as a reduction in harmful tau deposits.

Additionally, treated animals' synapses, which are the connections between brain cells, showed increased activity.

Editor's Note: Olive oil is known for its many health benefits, including an ability to help protect against cardiovascular disease and mild cognitive impairment.

\* Aging Cell. 2020 Jan; 19(1): e13076.





### Lactoferrin Boosts Immunity to Fight Cancer

Lactoferrin has numerous anticancer activities.

One key way it helps prevent the development of cancer and inhibit cancer growth is by boosting the body's **adaptive immune response**, according to a study published in the journal *Biomolecules*.\*

Adaptive immunity, also called acquired immunity, is an immune response to a specific pathogen that enhances the body's response to future encounters with that pathogen. For example, it's what prevents a person from contracting the measles after they've already had it.

In addition to boosting adaptive immunity, lactoferrin works in the following ways to help combat cancer:

- It promotes cell proliferation and migration in healthy cells, while inhibiting proliferation and migration in cancerous cells.
- It crosses the blood-brain barrier, making it an ideal carrier for chemotherapeutics designed to treat brain tumors.
- It is highly bioavailable.
- It selectively targets cells involved in tumor proliferation, survival, migration, invasion, and metastasis.

Editor's Note: According to the study authors, "The use of nutraceuticals as natural compounds corroborating anti-cancer standard therapy is emerging as a promising tool for their relative abundance, bioavailability, safety, low-cost effectiveness, and immuno-compatibility with the host."

\* Biomolecules. 2020 Mar 15;10(3).

### Rise in Obesity-Related Cancers Seen at Younger Ages

Cancers associated with obesity, once typically diagnosed at higher rates in people over 65, are now on the rise in younger people, according to a study published in *JAMA Network Open.*\*

Researchers studied more than **6 million** cancer cases in the Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) database from the years 2000 to 2016.

The results revealed a shift in obesity-associated cancers to people in both the 20-to-49-year-old age group and in the 50-to-64-year-old age group. The greatest increase occurred in the 50-to-64-year-old group.

In 50-to-64-year-olds, the **increase** in the number of obesityassociated cancers ranged from **25.3%** in non-Hispanic white women to **197.8%** in Hispanic men.

Editor's Note: Obesity increases cancer risk by multiple mechanisms that include chronic inflammation, elevated glucose/fasting insulin and hormone imbalances. The authors of this study stated that "some of the greatest increases [were] observed for liver and thyroid cancers [in] all sex- and race/ethnicity- specific strata."

\* JAMA Network Open, 2019; 2 (8): e199261.





### Even Light Physical Activity Increases Longevity

Increasing your amount of physical activity—regardless of intensity—can increase your lifespan, according to a study published in the *BMJ*.\* Even light activity—such as walking or washing dishes—can have longevity benefits.

Researchers analyzed data from 36,383 adults with a mean age of 62.6 years. The data came from studies that tracked activity using motion sensors for up to one week, and that followed individuals for a median follow-up of 5.8 years.

The researchers categorized physical activity according to light, moderate, and intense, and they divided individuals according to most active and least active.

Results showed that the **25%** most active people had a **60%-70%** lower risk of death compared to the **25%** least active people. Moreover, sitting for **9.5 hours** a day or more (not counting night-time sleep) was tied to a statistically significant increased risk of death.

Editor's Note: Government guidelines recommend a minimum of 150 minutes of moderate exercise or 75 minutes of vigorous exercise per week.

\* BMJ. 2019;366:I4570.

# ZINC ACETATE LOZENGES

**Zinc** helps fortify the **immune** system.<sup>1,2</sup>

When needed, **zinc lozenges** can be important for strengthening the body's natural defenses.<sup>3-5</sup>

**Enhanced Zinc Lozenges** is an "ionic formula" that delivers **18.5 mg** of zinc (acetate) in peppermint flavor lozenge.

Zinc lozenges should be taken as needed. They are not for daily use.

#### References

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Enhanced Zinc Lozenges

Special Ionic Formula for the Body's Natural Defense System' 30 VEGETARIAN DETARY UNDERVISE

Item #01961 • 30 vegetarian lozenges 1 bottle **\$9** 



\* Limited Supplies Available. One bottle will be initially shipped with the balance to follow upon our re-supply. For full product description and to order Enhanced Zinc Lozenges, call 1-800-544-4440 or visit www.LifeExtension.com

# Does your multivitamin measure up?



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Centrum° Can't Compete 50 times the vitamin B1 25 times the vitamin B6 12 times the vitamin B12 10 times the biotin 10 times the selenium 8 times the vitamin C 2.5 times the vitamin B3 2 times the vitamin D 2 times the vitamin E 2 times the zinc

Life Extension<sup>®</sup>'s **Two-Per-Day** contains superior forms of nutrients such as **5-MTHF** that is almost **7 times** <u>more</u> **bioavailable** than **folic acid**. These **bio-active** nutrients provide the body with greater biological **activity**, which is especially important as people age. Two-Per-Day Capsules Item #02314 • 120 capsules (Two-month supply)

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Item #02125 • 30 liquid vegetarian capsules 1 bottle **\$24.75** 4 bottles \$22.50 each



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# Increase AMPK to Better Manage Body Weight

Most people today consume too many excess calories.

This results in **mTOR** constantly running at high gear, which is a factor in unwanted **fat storage**.

Studies show that <u>increasing</u> **AMPK** activity turns <u>down</u> excess **mTOR**.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Reduce Cell Fat Storage**

Scientific studies show that <u>increasing</u> **AMPK** activity can encourage cells to store less fat and burn it as energy.<sup>2,3</sup>

**AMPK Metabolic Activator** was formulated based on data showing <u>reduced</u> **belly fat** in response to just one of its ingredients (*Gynostemma pentaphyllum*).<sup>3</sup>

**AMPK Metabolic Activator** is a dual-nutrient formula designed to support healthy AMPK cellular activation.

#### References

- 1. Anticancer Agents Med Chem. 2013 Sep;13(7):967-70.
- 2. Nutr J. 2016;15:6.
- 3. Obesity (Silver Spring). 2014;22(1):63-71.



Item #02207 • 30 vegetarian tablets 1 bottle **\$28.50** 4 bottles \$24 each

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Actiponin<sup>®</sup> is a trademark of TG Biotech Co., Ltd. This supplement should be taken in conjunction with a healthy diet and regular exercise program. Individual results may vary and are not guaranteed.



# **LITHIUM:** A Critical Mineral for Overall Health

#### **BY SARAH LEWIS**

For decades, research has suggested that **lithium** has unique health benefits.

It may help prevent cognitive decline<sup>1,2</sup> and may slow the aging process.<sup>3-5</sup>

Much of lithium's impact is due to its *inhibition* of an enzyme in the body known as **glycogen synthase kinase-3** (GSK-3).

GSK-3 *overactivity* has been tied to rapid aging and risk for chronic diseases.

Studies suggest that **GSK-3** inhibition is largely responsible for lithium's ability to protect brain function and extend lifespan.<sup>3</sup>

**Lithium** may *inhibit* cellular senescence, an effect that has been shown to *increase* longevity in preclinical studies.<sup>6-8</sup>

Even at <u>low</u> doses, lithium intake has been associated with *decreased* all-cause mortality in humans and *increased* longevity in roundworms.<sup>9</sup>

Two studies have found that individuals living in areas with even modest, low levels of lithium in the drinking water tend to *live longer*.<sup>9,10</sup>

Small, daily **lithium** doses (around **1,000 mcg**) may be an effective way to slow aging and cognitive decline.

#### **Brief History of Lithium**

The element **lithium** is believed to have been created just minutes after the Big Bang, even before the stars and galaxies began to form.<sup>11</sup>

On Earth, it's found in nearly all rocks. As water flows over and through rock formations and subsoil, it picks up small amounts of lithium.

For thousands of years, when people drank from natural bodies of water, they took in tiny doses of lithium.

Over time, water that had the highest-lithium concentrations became recognized for its health promoting properties. People even traveled hundreds of miles, making pilgrimages to lithium-rich springs.

For instance, **Lithia Springs** in Georgia, an area of naturally abundant lithium in the water, became a draw for people from all over the country. Prominent figures, from Mark Twain to at least four U.S. presidents, made trips to the springs specifically to drink the water.

In the last century, high doses of lithium—*thousands* of times higher than those in water—were found to be an effective treatment for bipolar disorder and depression.

And in recent years, scientists have made discoveries that help explain lithium's wide-ranging benefits.

#### **Slowing Aging**

One of the most important ways lithium benefits the body is by inhibiting the activity of a powerful regulatory enzyme called **glycogen synthase kinase-3** (**GSK-3**).<sup>3-5</sup>

GSK-3 controls several important functions in cells.

But *overactivity* of **GSK-3**, which occurs frequently with age, may be harmful.

Too much **GSK-3 activity** could rob cells of the ability to defend themselves against many of the ravages of time.<sup>4,12-17</sup>

In fact, increased GSK-3 activity correlates with more rapid aging of many tissues and the body as a whole.<sup>15,17</sup> The impact is so great, GSK-3 can be thought of as an **age-accelerating enzyme**.

Excess GSK-3 activity may also raise the risk for chronic disorders of older age, including type II diabetes, Alzheimer's, mood disorders, cancer, and others.<sup>4,12-14,16</sup>

The link between **GSK-3** and **aging** and **disease** is so strong that since the 1970s researchers have been developing medications to reduce GSK-3 activity.

These scientists believe that a compound that reduces GSK-3 activity may be effective against agerelated disorders such as **type II diabetes**. Since lithium *reduces* GSK-3 overactivity at low doses, numerous age-related health problems could potentially safely be reduced without resorting to high-potency lithium drugs.<sup>3-5</sup>

Studies suggest that **GSK-3 inhibition** is largely responsible for lithium's ability to protect brain function.<sup>3</sup>

#### Lithium May Extend Longevity

In addition to the well-known positive effects on mood,<sup>18</sup> lithium has also been linked with longer overall **longevity**.

Two studies have found that individuals living in areas with even modest, low levels of lithium in the drinking water tend to *live longer*.<sup>9,10</sup>

This pattern has also been observed in people taking high-dose lithium for medical reasons. They generally have <u>lower</u> mortality rates, including <u>lower</u> rates of death due to cardiovascular disease.<sup>19,20</sup>

Studies in animals have supported these findings and have helped identify the potential biological mechanisms by which lithium extends longevity.

For example, studies in fruit flies and the roundworm *C. elegans* show that **high doses** of **lithium** supplementation lead to longer lifespan.<sup>3,6,9</sup> The median survival of



the animals in one of these studies was increased by as much as 46%.<sup>6</sup>

These effects were seen at **very high doses**, but even at low doses, **lithium** has been shown to modestly increase lifespan in *C. elegans*.<sup>9</sup>

Scientists believe lithium may promote longevity by protecting cellular genetic material from age-related deterioration. It may do this in three main ways:<sup>6-8</sup>

- Lithium may help maintain longer telomeres, structures associated with DNA health and longer life, as seen in long-term, high-dose treatment.
- Lithium regulates genes related to healthy DNA structure.
- Lithium may offer protection from **cellu**lar senescence, when elderly cells cease functioning properly but won't die off. These senescent cells are major contributors to age-related ailments and faster aging.

These mechanisms pack a powerful punch against premature aging and degenerative illnesses.

#### Lithium and the Brain

In **2018**, researchers studying lithium levels in different counties in Texas discovered that rates of death from **Alzheimer's disease** were *higher* in areas with *low* levels of lithium in the water.<sup>10</sup>

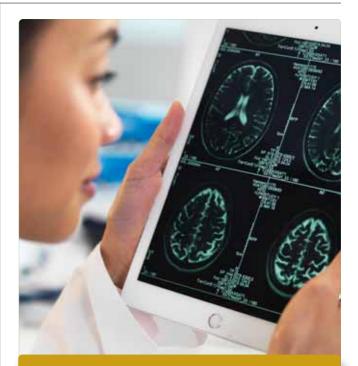
This came on the heels of a Danish study that found that *higher* long-term lithium intake from drinking water may be associated with a lower risk of being diagnosed with dementia.<sup>21</sup>

Clinical studies of lithium in the treatment of dementia show similarly encouraging results.

In one study, a micro-dose of just **300 mcg** of lithium daily *significantly decreased cognitive decline* in Alzheimer's patients compared to a placebo.<sup>22</sup>

A recent review found that cognitive function of individuals with **early-stage dementia** remained more stable in those given lithium than in those who took a placebo.<sup>23</sup>

In addition to reducing the <u>elevated</u> **GSK-3 activity** associated with Alzheimer's, one preclinical study showed that lithium reduces the build-up of **beta-amyloid**, the abnormal protein that accumulates and forms plaques in the brains of Alzheimer's patients.<sup>24</sup>



### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

## The Wide-Ranging Benefits of Lithium

- Lithium is a trace mineral found in the earth's crust, and therefore in some, but not all, drinking water.
- Studies suggest that GSK-3 inhibition is also largely responsible for lithium's ability to protect brain function and extend lifespan.
- Even at low doses, lithium intake has been associated with *decreased* all-cause mortality in humans and *increased* longevity in roundworms.
- Lithium plays a critical role, from slowing the aging process to protecting the brain and improving mental health, and more.
- Small daily doses of lithium may be an effective way to slow aging and cognitive decline and extend life.

#### **Other Biological Effects**

Research has revealed many other biological effects in those using long-term, high-dose lithium treatment for medical conditions.<sup>5</sup>

- It reduces cell death and improves cellular resilience and plasticity.
- It increases the activity of multiple beneficial neurotransmitters in the brain.
- It has balancing effects on the circadian rhythm and hormonal function.
- It increases **brain-derived neurotrophic factor**, an important signaling molecule in the brain that protects brain cells and augments their function.

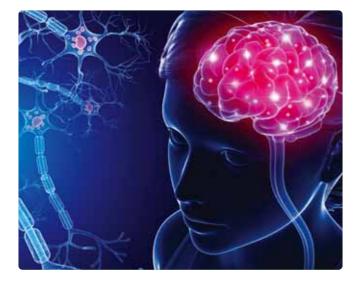
Scientists continue to discover new benefits of lithium all the time.

#### Summary

**Lithium**, an often-overlooked trace mineral, may help slow the aging process, extend lifespan, reduce risk for chronic diseases, and slow the worsening of cognitive decline.

Research shows that low doses of lithium ranging from **300 mcg** to around **1,000 mcg** daily may have a beneficial impact on mental and physical health and possibly increase longevity. •

If you have any questions on the scientific content of this article, please call a Life Extension® Wellness Specialist at 1-866-864-3027.



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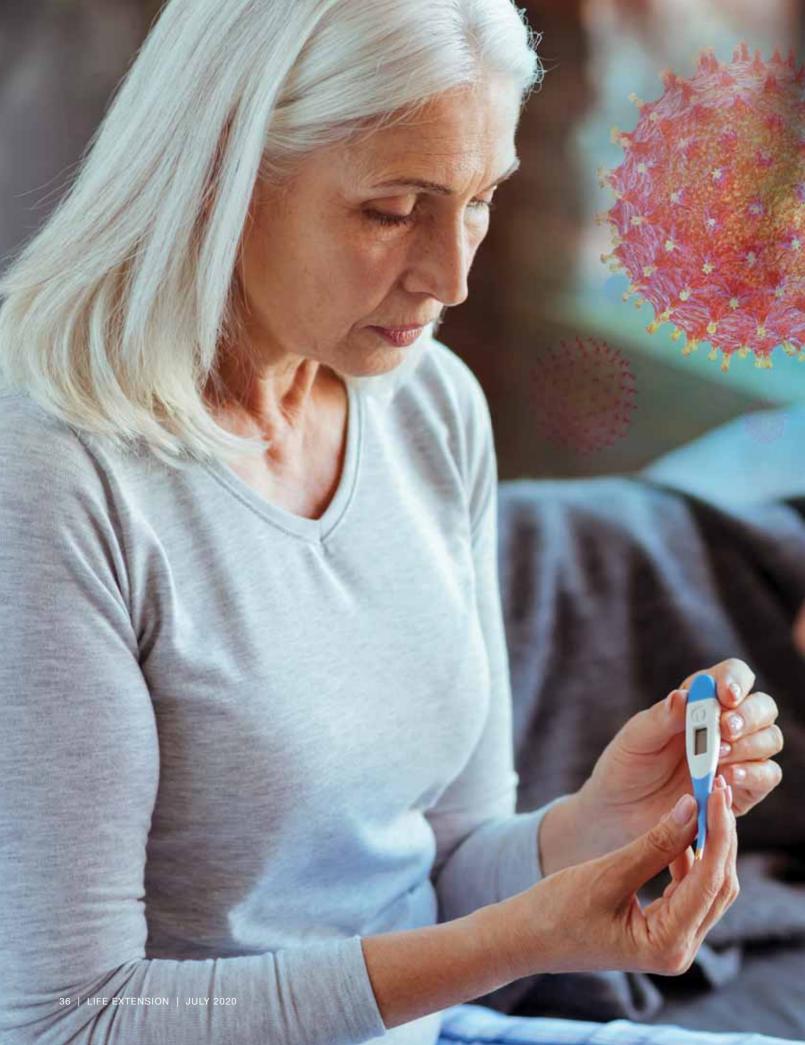
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## When IMMUNE FUNCTION "Falls off a Cliff"

**BY WILLIAM FALOON** 

Significant dollars are being invested to develop methods to turn youthful **immune function** back "on."

Yet many of us can't wait for delays while our immune systems "fall off a cliff."

This article explains some of the changes that occur with aging that cause our **immune functions** to become dys-functional (senescent).

It also describes some of what is available today to help restore immune competence in aging humans, including suppressing the **interleukin-6** cytokine.

Much of this article was published by **Life Extension**<sup>®</sup> in January 2016.<sup>1</sup>

Human research has since moved forward on several fronts to induce systemic improvements in immune functions.

Around **age 60** a startling change occurs that decimates our ability to combat **infections** and **malignancies**.

Some people encounter these immune impairments earlier in life.

This catastrophic event decreases **naïve T cells** needed to ward off new bacteria, viruses, and cancers.

At the same time **naïve T cells** are lost, we accumulate senile **memory T cells** that emit **pro-inflammatory** signals that wreak havoc in every organ system.<sup>2</sup>

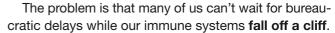
One of the deadliest of these inflammatory "signals" is a cytokine called **interleukin-6** (IL-6).<sup>3</sup>

Higher **IL-6** levels are associated with a **2-fold** greater risk of death.<sup>4</sup> Higher levels are also involved with multiple degenerative processes, including **frailty**, from which so many elderly suffer.<sup>5-7</sup>

A common trait of healthy **centenarians** is that they have unusually <u>low</u> levels of **IL-6**.<sup>8</sup>

People associate **immune senescence** with weakened immune function. It turns out that impaired immunity is only half the problem. Spiraling levels of **IL-6** that attack our **healthy tissues** are another component of **immune senescence** that must be addressed.<sup>9</sup>

The encouraging news is that significant dollars are being invested to develop technologies to turn youthful **immune function** back "**on.**"<sup>10</sup> These immune-restoration therapies may add decades to our healthy lifespans.



There is an urgent need today to accelerate restoration of **immune** competence in aging humans, including suppressing deadly **interleukin-6** levels.

#### Leading Cause of Disability and Death in Older Persons

**Immune senescence** is a leading cause of disability and death in aging humans.<sup>11</sup>

By way of example, deaths from **pneumonia** are rare in youth, but spiral upward as humans mature.<sup>12</sup> If you read obituaries (as I do), the number of once-vigorous individuals who perish from opportunistic illnesses caused by **immune senescence** is startling.

*Life Extension*<sup>®</sup> magazine has published in-depth reports about underlying causes of **immune senes-cence** and what stop-gap measures people should initiate to reverse this deadly trend.<sup>13-15</sup>

In people over age 65, the top 10 causes of death include influenza, pneumonia, and sepsis.<sup>16</sup> **Immune senescence** is a major cause of all these maladies.<sup>12,17-22</sup>

Cancer, stroke, Alzheimer's, and heart attack are common diseases of aging.<sup>16</sup> These illnesses are all <u>also</u> related to **immune senescence**.

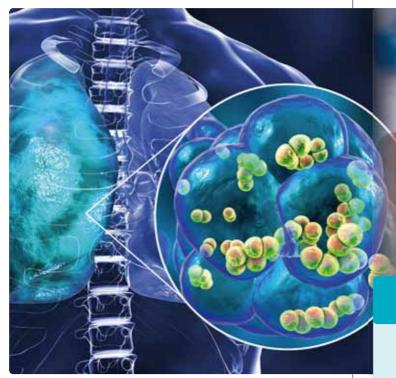
We often hear the term "*immune health*" as people seek to protect against winter viral infections. The public does not yet understand what causes our immune system to fail as we age.



"We conclude that **CHF** (chronic heart failure) patients show a higher degree of **immunosenescence** than age-matched healthy controls. **T-lymphocyte** differentiation and **IL-6** levels are <u>increased</u> in patients with an advanced clinical status and may contribute to disease impairment through a compromised adaptive immune response due to accelerated aging of their immune system."

Publication: International Journal of Cardiology – July 1, 2014

Article title: Immunosenescence and inflammation characterize chronic heart failure patients with more advanced disease.



#### More Naïve T Cells Urgently Needed

Immune **imbalance** occurs when our aging immune system fails to protect against new **cancers/infections** and instead generates **inflammatory** reactions (including increased **IL-6**) that attack every cell in our body.

A "**naïve**" **immune cell** is one that has not yet been activated.<sup>23</sup> Since it is "naïve" (not yet exposed to an antigen), naïve immune cells are primed to effectively respond to <u>new</u> infectious agents and malignancies.

Once exposed, **naïve immune cells** become **memory cells** or plasma cells specific to the original antigen. As our internal reservoir of **naïve immune cells** is decreased, we have less ability to respond to <u>new</u> infections/malignancies.<sup>23</sup>

A deficit of **naïve immune cells** combined with overaccumulation of **exhausted memory cells** decreases the efficacy (antibody response) of **vaccinations**.<sup>24</sup>

Exhausted **memory T cells** are associated with increased risks of coronary **heart disease** and **endothe-lial dysfunction**, along with systemic **inflammation**.<sup>25-30</sup>

If we are to guard against the ravages of **immune senescence**, we need to increase our numbers of **naïve cells** ("virgin" immune cells), while reducing numbers of senile **memory cells**.

#### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

#### **Immune Senescence**

- Around age 60, physiological changes decimate our ability to combat infections and malignancies.
- Immune senescence is a leading cause of disability and death in aging humans.
- Most Life Extension<sup>®</sup> customers take nutrients that boost immune activity, including zinc, DHEA and fish oil.
- Immune imbalance occurs when our immune system fails to protect against new infections and instead generates inflammatory reactions (including increased IL-6) that attack every cell in our body.
- The herb Cistanche helps combat immune senescence, which appears to have rejuvenating effects on bone marrow.
- Supplementation with Cistanche has been shown to increase naïve T cells and natural killer (NK) cells while decreasing memory T cells and pro-inflammatory IL-6.

#### Protecting against Immune Senescence

Most Life Extension<sup>®</sup> customers take nutrients that exert beneficial effects on immune activity.

Zinc and DHEA partially restore thymus function, which is vital to transforming bone-marrow-derived immune cells into activated **T cells**.<sup>31-35</sup>

**DHEA** and **fish oil** help suppress deadly **interleukin-6**.<sup>36-41</sup>

An advance in combatting **immune senescence** is an herb called *Cistanche*. This medicinal plant has been used extensively in China to treat the "*ailments of aging*."<sup>42</sup>

Supplementation with *Cistanche* has been shown to <u>increase</u> **naïve T cells** and **natural killer (NK) cells** while decreasing **memory T cells** and pro-inflammatory **interleukin-6**.<sup>43</sup>

A prime cause of the severe immune dysfunction suffered by the elderly is a marked decrease in **naïve T cells**<sup>44-46</sup> and functional **natural killer cells**,<sup>47-49</sup> with a concomitant increase in **memory T cells**.<sup>50,51</sup>

*Cistanche* counteracts these pathological trends that characterize **immune senescence**.<sup>43</sup>

#### How *Cistanche* Boosts T Cell Production and Healthy Longevity

*Cistanche* helps restore *progenitors* of peripheral **naïve T cells**, which explains the increase seen in these vital **immune cells** in response to *Cistanche*.<sup>43</sup>

Animals supplemented with *Cistanche* have increased **lifespans**, which would be expected from a compound that counteracts **immune senescence**.<sup>43</sup>

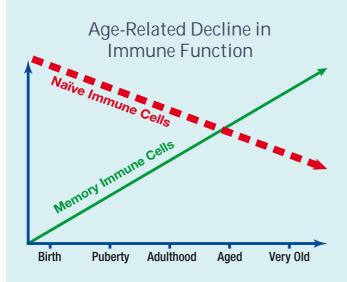
*Cistanche* is one of the most popular Chinese herbal medicines and is listed in the Chinese herbal pharmacopeias as having "**anti-aging**" properties.

One reason Chinese physicians see such impressive therapeutic results is that *Cistanche* restores one of the most prominent **bone marrow** biomarkers of **immune cell** formation called **stem cell antigen-1**.<sup>43</sup>

Senile **bone marrow** loses its ability to produce fresh, **naïve immune cells**, which are launched into the bloodstream to differentiate into mature **naïve T** and **natural killer cells**.

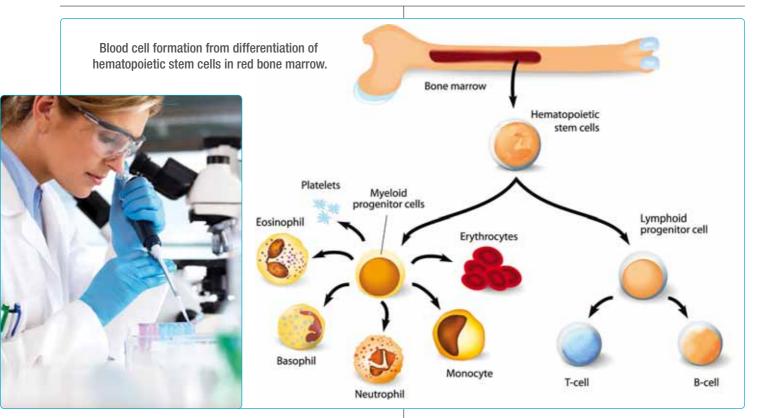
Bone marrow **stem cell antigen-1** represents the body's main source of **naïve T cells** in the blood.<sup>43</sup>

*Cistanche* appears to have a rejuvenating effect on the bone marrow, something that is generally available only through expensive recombinant drugs.<sup>52-54</sup>



In youth we enjoy abundant naïve T cell populations that stand ready to destroy new bacteria, viruses, and cancers. Once a naïve immune cell does its job, it converts to a memory T cell that responds only to the same bacteria, virus, etc. Aging results in <u>excess</u> memory cells that emit *inflammatory* signals, while depriving the body of vital naïve cells to fight <u>new</u> invaders and malignancies.





The beneficial impact of *Cistanche* was demonstrated in an open-label, pilot trial of elderly people. This study combined a low dose of *Cistanche* (100 mg) with zinc, vitamin E, vitamin B6, fucoidan, and coenzyme Q10. Not only were markers of immune senescence reversed, but the test subjects reported improvements in quality of life, such as not "*feeling tired all the time.*"

This makes sense in light of the multiple adverse effects **immune senescence** inflicts on the body, which include increased levels of **frailty**.<sup>55</sup>

*Cistanche* represents an opportunity to restore vital components of our aging immune systems. Its low cost makes it readily affordable.

#### Suppressing Deadly Impact of IL-6

One way of describing "aging" is that beneficial factors (such as **naïve T cell** production) decrease while detrimental ones (like **interleukin-6**) increase.

**IL-6** levels are especially high in patients with autoimmune conditions in which an out-of-control immune system attacks one's own tissues.

High-serum **IL-6**, as seen in **rheumatoid arthritis**, for instance, is regarded as a reliable biomarker of high-grade **inflammation**.<sup>56-58</sup>

When it comes to "normal" aging, elevated **IL-6** contributes to the destruction of bone, heart valves, neurons, and other tissues.

The DNA damage that IL-6 inflicts accelerates aging processes and malignant transformation of healthy cells.<sup>59-65</sup>

Life Extension<sup>®</sup> has published a number of articles about the critical need for aging humans to suppress chronic inflammatory inducers like interleukin-6.

As will be described in the article on page 58, a low-cost **tea extract** has demonstrated the ability to reduce **IL-6**.

When this **tea extract** by itself was given to 90 patients (30-65 years old) with **metabolic syndrome**, the following reductions in **inflammatory** markers were observed:<sup>66</sup>

- C-reactive protein (CRP) was reduced by 26%
- Tumor necrosis factor (TNF-a) was reduced by 23%
- Interleukin-6 (IL-6) was reduced by 21%

In addition to suppressing **IL-6** and other inflammatory factors, this **tea extract** was shown to favorably alter genes (such as mutant p53) involved in tumor cell growth.<sup>67</sup>



#### Making Major Strides... but Not Fast Enough

For the past five years, significant resources have been expended to initiate studies aimed at counteracting age-related disease.

Scientific studies document how certain nutrients that *Life Extension*<sup>®</sup> supporters have taken for decades (like DHEA and zinc) help protect against immune decline, while guarding against chronic inflammatory factors.<sup>68-73</sup>

Consumers have access to an arsenal of novel compounds to help counteract the underlying factors that characterize **immune senescence**.

An impressive array of clinical research is being investigated to induce systemic **age reversal** in elderly people, including restoration of *youthful* **immune function**.

The carnage inflicted by dysfunctional immunity in the **elderly** mandates that research accelerate faster, so that more lives can be saved. •

If you have any questions on the scientific content of this article, please call a Life Extension<sup>®</sup> Wellness Specialist at 1-866-864-3027.

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30 VEGETABLAS



## DHEA Promotes Quality of Life

**BY STEPHANIE MYERS** 

**DHEA** is one of the most abundant hormones in the bloodstream.

With age, DHEA levels decline.1

From a high point in our 20s, DHEA levels fall by **80%-90%** by the time we hit 80 years old.<sup>2</sup>

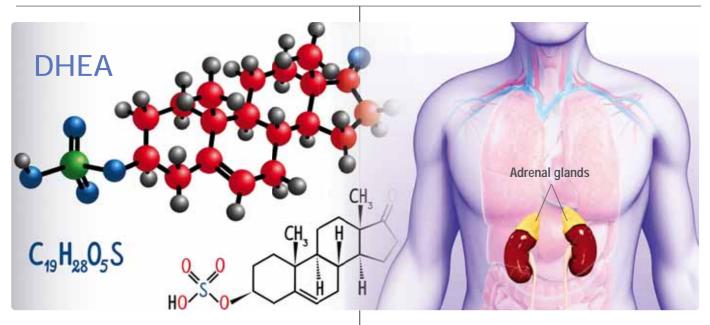
This loss has been associated with loss of function and increased risk for disease. It impacts quality of life and longevity.<sup>3-7</sup>

Back in 1981, **Life Extension**<sup>©</sup> recommended the hormone DHEA as a strategy to slow aging. There are now hundreds of published papers substantiating DHEA's youth-promoting properties.

DHEA has become a popular **anti-aging** supplement.

One landmark study that followed older men for 12 years found that an increase of **100 ug/dL** of DHEA-S circulating in the blood was associated with a *reduced risk of death from any cause by 36%.*<sup>3</sup>

A simple **blood test** can identify DHEA status in men and women. Taking oral **DHEA** capsules can restore *youthful* levels.



#### What Is DHEA?

**Dehydroepiandrosterone** (**DHEA**) is a **hormone** derived from cholesterol and pregnenolone.

It's produced by the adrenal glands, located just above the kidneys, and in smaller amounts in the testes in males and the ovaries in females.

DHEA acts as a **precursor**—the starting material for production of the sex hormones testosterone and estrogen.

It also has direct hormonal effects of its own throughout the body.

#### Impact on the Sex Hormones

The adrenal glands, testes, and ovaries *need* DHEA to produce adequate **testosterone** and **estrogen**.

As DHEA levels drop with age, less testosterone and estrogen are produced.

Low levels of these sex hormones contribute to loss of vitality and eventual **frailty** in older men and women.

Lower DHEA levels are tied to other health problems and a diminished quality of life.

In <u>older men</u>, **low** testosterone results in erectile dysfunction, a drop in libido, loss of muscle mass and bone density, a tendency towards depression, and slowing brain function.<sup>4,8,9</sup>

In <u>older women</u>, **low** estrogen levels are associated with a loss of libido, along with hot flashes, mood swings, fatigue, headaches, thinning of the bones, and risk for bone fractures.<sup>10,11</sup>

By *increasing* DHEA levels, we help provide the body with some of the raw material it requires to produce the testosterone and estrogen.

But DHEA is <u>not</u> always the optimal way for men to boost **testosterone** or women to increase estrogen.

In men, DHEA can convert to **estrogen**, which is good for men with low estrogen that is not in the optimal range of **20 pg/mL-30 pg/mL**. Men need enough estrogen to protect against **osteoporosis**, but not so much that it increases **cardiovascular** risks.

This is why **blood testing** is so important for men to achieve **optimal** estradiol (an estrogen) levels of **20 pg/mL-30 pg/mL**.

In women, DHEA more often cascades into testosterone, which can be beneficial for aging women with deficient testosterone that can diminish sexual functions. It can be challenging for menopausal women to fully restore estrogen levels with DHEA alone.

In general, as **men** age, DHEA tends to increase estrogen more than testosterone. The opposite happens for **women**, whereby DHEA tends to increase testosterone more than estrogen.

This is one reason why women often only need **15 mg** a day of **DHEA** to achieve optimal levels, whereas aging men usually require about **25 mg** of supplemental **DHEA** a day.

However, the direction DHEA goes is influenced by genetics, diet, lifestyle and visceral fat levels. The best way for an individual to assess if DHEA is going more toward testosterone or estrogen is through blood tests that measure levels of **DHEA**, **testosterone** and **estradiol**.

#### Systemic Effects of DHEA

Although DHEA helps produce sex hormones, it also has a widespread, direct impact on tissues throughout the body.

Low levels of DHEA have been tied to premature aging and shortened lifespan, along with an *increased* risk for: $^{2-5,7,10,12-17}$ 

- · Cognitive decline and dementia,
- Cardiovascular disease,
- Osteoporosis and bone fractures,
- Depression,
- · Sexual dysfunction,
- Inflammation and inflammatory disorders, and
- Frailty.

Maintaining normal, youthful levels of DHEA into older age may help fend off the problems associated with <u>low</u> DHEA.

#### **Increasing DHEA Levels**

DHEA levels peak between ages 20 and 30, then decline at a rate of roughly **5% every year**.<sup>18</sup>

<u>One</u> effective way to raise DHEA levels in the blood in older adults is by taking **oral DHEA**.

As with any hormone, *excess* levels of DHEA are not desirable.



A simple blood test called **DHEA-S** can assess current levels. The results can then be used as a guide to determine how much oral DHEA is needed to achieve youthful levels.

For women, an ideal DHEA-S blood level is **275 ug/ dL-400 ug/dL**. For men, it's **350 ug/dL-500 ug/dL**.

Most older people can achieve optimal results by taking **15 mg-50 mg** of DHEA daily.

#### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

## Keeping Youthful with DHEA

- Dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA) is a hormone produced primarily in the adrenal glands, testes, and ovaries.
- It's needed by the body to produce the sex hormones testosterone and estrogen.
- DHEA also has many health-promoting effects of its own, directly impacting many bodily functions.
- Levels of DHEA drop as much as 80%-90% by later adulthood, declining in parallel with our vitality and health.
- These low levels are associated with increased risk of disease, diminished quality of life, frailty, and shortened lifespan.
- Blood testing for DHEA can identify low levels and help guide proper oral intake to attain more youthful levels.
- Most older people can achieve optimal, youthful levels by taking 15 mg-50 mg of DHEA daily.

#### Quality of Life

The impact of *higher* DHEA levels can be dramatic. A recent study assessed the relationship between DHEA and **quality of life**, using the World Health Organization Quality of Life Scale.<sup>7,19</sup>

The researchers found that in adults of various ages, *higher* DHEA levels corresponded to *better* results in three areas of the scale:

- Physical health, including levels of energy and fatigue, pain and discomfort, and sleep and rest,
- **Social relations**, including quality of personal relationships and sexual activity, and
- Environmental dimensions, including participation in recreation and leisure activities.

Those with higher DHEA also had better **working memory**, the ability to hold and use information in the short term, which is an important marker of cognitive function.

Other studies have reported similar findings related to cognitive function.

For example, one recent study found *lower* levels of DHEA-S in patients with **Alzheimer's disease**, compared to those with normal brain function.<sup>15</sup>

#### **Improving Sexual Function**

Many people consider a waning libido and diminished sexual function to be a normal part of aging. Studies of DHEA show that these signs of decline are closely associated with the age-related decline in levels of DHEA.

Studies have demonstrated that age-related *decline* in DHEA is associated with erectile dysfunction in men<sup>4</sup> along with a drop in libido, ability to reach orgasm, and sexual frequency.<sup>20</sup>

In women and men, *higher* levels of DHEA are associated with *improved* sexual function, including arousal, libido, ability to orgasm, and sexual frequency.<sup>20,21</sup>

#### **DHEA and Longevity**

DHEA's impact goes far beyond qualify-of-life issues. Low levels are associated with increased risk for several disorders of older age, including cardiovascular disease, inflammatory disorders, and metabolic disorders.<sup>2-5,14,16</sup>

Maintaining youthful levels of DHEA could help ward off these diseases, leading to a longer and healthier life.

Aside from its impact on disease, DHEA has also demonstrated an association with **longevity**.

Blood levels of DHEA correlate with longevity in primates.<sup>22</sup>





This appears to be done by activating various "housekeeping" responses that keep tissues youthful and functioning optimally, thus maintaining balance in the body, supporting a healthy immune system, and improving resistance to the development of cancer.

In humans, studies have shown that *lower* levels of DHEA are predictive of **earlier death**.<sup>5,6,23-27</sup>

For example, a study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* followed older men for 12 years.<sup>3</sup> It found that those with *lower* levels of DHEA-S were more likely to die from cardiovascular causes than those with *higher* levels.

The same study found that an increase of **100 ug/dL** in DHEA-S reduced the risk of death *from any cause* by **36%**.

Many other studies have reported similar findings.<sup>5,6,23-27</sup>

One study took a different approach, tracking DHEA levels **over time** in older individuals.<sup>24</sup> It found that those people whose levels dropped at a *faster* rate were at greater risk of death than those whose levels declined at a slower rate.

In fact, the steeper downward trajectory was associated with a **75%** greater likelihood of death.

Tracking DHEA levels over time may give a better picture of overall health and identify those individuals who are most in need of taking oral DHEA to get back to youthful levels.

Life Extension<sup>®</sup> suggests checking DHEA-S levels as part of people's yearly battery of lab tests.

#### Summary

**DHEA** is a vital hormone needed to produce testosterone and estrogen. It also has many direct health-promoting effects throughout the body.

Its levels drop dramatically in older age.

Many quality-of-life factors that deteriorate with age, such as sexual function, mood, cognitive function, and physical health, are associated with low DHEA levels.

Decreased DHEA levels are correlated with risk for age-related disorders and overall mortality.

Blood testing can help identify individuals with low levels and guide how much oral DHEA intake is needed to restore youthful levels, to help ward off aging and a diminished quality of life.

**Note**: Concerns have been raised regarding DHEA supplementation and hormone-sensitive cancers. To date, no study has convincingly shown an increased risk of hormone-dependent cancer in people supplementing with DHEA. As always, anyone with a medical condition should consult their doctor before beginning a new supplement or medication.

If you have any questions on the scientific content of this article, please call a **Life Extension**<sup>®</sup> Wellness Specialist at 1-866-864-3027.

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> **References** 1. Food Chem. 2013;139(1-4):129-37. 2. Panminerva Med. 2014;56(3 Suppl 1):1-6.

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**Caution:** Consult a physician or licensed, qualified healthcare professional before using these products if you have, or have a family history of, breast cancer, prostate cancer, or other hormone-sensitive diseases.



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## Natural Approaches to Improve IMMUNE FUNCTION

**BY JASON MEYERS** 

If we are to live longer, healthier lives, we need our immune system to function at peak capacity.

The following **plant-derived** compounds have shown an ability to help rescue the immune system from senescent decline:

- Cistanche
- Reishi mushrooms
- Pu-erh tea

Together, these natural extracts help combat **immune senescence** by several complementary mechanisms that include enhancing activity of **natural killer cells** and **T cells** and turning down **overactive** immune reactions.

This article describes research supporting the use of low-cost plant extracts to help support immune health.

#### **Reishi Mushroom Extract**

The immune-boosting properties of **Reishi mush-rooms** have been appreciated in Eastern medicine for thousands of years. Modern science is now validating their health-promoting properties.<sup>1,2</sup>

Studies show that consuming these mushrooms improves immune function and has anti-tumor effects.<sup>2-9</sup>

In mice, **Reishi** has been found to promote the maturation and *activation* of immune system cells such as **T cells**, **natural killer cells**, **dendritic cells**, and **macrophages**.<sup>3-6</sup>

Lab studies show that Reishi also helps raise protective *IL-10* levels and lower pro-inflammatory *IL-6* levels.<sup>10,11</sup>

This indicates that Reishi augments the function of both the **innate** and **adaptive immune system**.

The **innate immune system** can be thought of as the body's first line of defense, responding rapidly to potentially harmful insults such as viruses, bacteria, and cancer cells.

**Natural killer cells** are an important component of this innate immunity.<sup>12-17</sup> The diminished activity of **natural killer cells** that occurs with aging predisposes the elderly to high rates of infection by viruses ranging from influenza to various herpes viruses.<sup>16-21</sup>

#### Premature Death of Jack LaLanne Likely Caused by Immune Senescence

It is impossible to overstate the magnitude of disability and death that **immune senescence** inflicts on aging human populations. When you hear a person died from "**old age**," in almost every instance the underlying culprit is a **dysfunctional** immune system that ignites deadly inflammatory fires while failing to protect against infections and malignancies.

No one we know tried to live for over **100 years** more than health pioneer **Jack LaLanne**. He engaged in rigorous lifelong exercise and ate a low-calorie healthy diet. He followed an old-line supplement program probably devoid of **vitamin K** and **DHEA**, which may have contributed to his premature death at age **96**.

Jack LaLanne died of **pneumonia** following **aortic valve** surgery. Aortic valve stenosis is caused by **calcification**, **chronic inflammation**, and other factors such as elevated **homocysteine**.<sup>31</sup>

The **adaptive immune system** responds more slowly than the innate immune system but mounts a more specific, powerful attack against pathogens using specialized immune system cells called **T cells**.

With its ability to boost components of both **innate** and **adaptive** immunity, **Reishi** can protect the aging body from infections. This benefit has been borne out in laboratory studies demonstrating activity against many common viruses, including:

- Herpes simplex viruses—which cause oral and genital herpes<sup>22</sup>
- Influenza viruses which cause the flu<sup>23</sup>
- Epstein-Barr virus which causes mononucleosis but can also contribute to the formation of cancer<sup>24,25</sup>
- Hepatitis B virus—a common cause of liver disease that can lead to liver failure<sup>26,27</sup>
- Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) the virus which causes AIDS<sup>28,29</sup>



**Vitamin K** prevents **calcification** that is so often the reason why an elderly person's aortic valve fails.<sup>32-37</sup> **DHEA** partially protects against **inflammation**.<sup>38-40</sup>

**Immune senescence** may very well have contributed to Jack LaLanne's early demise by crippling his ability to fight off the **pneumonia**, which was the acute cause of his death.

It is difficult to imagine someone as fit and vigorous as **Jack LaLanne** succumbing to **pneumonia**. Yet a dysfunctional **immune system** deprives even the hardiest of us from warding off infections that were easily overcome in our youth.

Clearly, protecting against **immune senescence** is a mandatory component of a longevity program.

#### NATURAL APPROACHES TO IMPROVE IMMUNE FUNCTION



#### **Anti-Cancer Properties**

In addition to supporting protection from **infection**, Reishi exhibits **anti-cancer** properties as well—largely because of its ability to enhance immune function.

In particular, the boost Reishi gives to **natural killer cell**, **T cell**, and **macrophage** <u>function</u> aids in the identification and destruction of abnormal cells that may develop into **cancer**.<sup>2,9</sup>

**Reishi** may also directly combat tumors through an array of mechanisms it has demonstrated in the lab: impairing the ability of tumor cells to grow, preventing tumor blood vessels from developing, starving the abnormal cells, and even directly killing cancer cells.<sup>2,9</sup>

In one study, Reishi mushrooms were applied to various human cancer cell lines.<sup>9</sup> Not only did the Reishi reduce the growth of the cells, but it induced cell death in many of the diseased cells.

#### Lifespan Extension

Perhaps most impressively, Reishi has been shown to significantly **extend lifespan** of mice.<sup>30</sup> Researchers followed two groups of mice, one fed a normal control diet and the other fed a diet enriched with a Reishi extract.

The **Reishi** supplemented group lived as much as *148 days longer* than the control group. Given that the lifespan of a mouse is typically less than two years, this represents a dramatic increase in longevity.

#### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

#### Boosting the Aging Immune System

- Older age is associated with a decline in immune system function, known as immune senescence.
- Immune senescence increases the risk for infections, cancer, autoimmune disease, and chronic inflammatory conditions.
- Certain plants and fungi have been found to bolster immune system cells and functions, improving immunity.
- Reishi mushrooms, *Cistanche*, and Pu-erh tea have all been shown to improve immune function by various complementary mechanisms.
- Intake of extracts of these plants and fungi may help restore immune function, reducing the risk for infection, cancer, and other conditions for which the elderly are at increased risk.

#### **Cistanche Extract**

*Cistanche* is a type of desert plant that, like Reishi mushrooms, has long been appreciated for its medicinal uses in Eastern medicine.

Several studies have confirmed the ability of *Cistanche* extract to boost immune cells in the body.<sup>41-44</sup>

In one study, researchers utilized a strain of **senescence-accelerated** mice. These mice age more rapidly than normal mice and display the same deterioration in immune function seen in human immune senescence.

The mice fed a diet supplemented with *Cistanche* extract for four weeks had a significantly <u>increased</u> number of **T cells** and **natural killer cells** in the blood, and lower *pro-inflammatory* **interleukin-6 (IL-6)** levels.

This enhancement in immune function translated to an **extended lifespan** as well. The average age after

#### THE IMMUNE SYSTEM

#### How Our Immune Cells Defend Us

**Natural killer cells** are the body's **first responders** against viral infections and cancer cells, and play an important role in battling bacterial and fungal infections.<sup>12-17</sup> The age-related decline in the function of natural killer cells leads to higher rates of many viral, bacterial, and fungal infections—and these infections are more likely to be serious in those with age-related immune senescence.<sup>19-21</sup>

For example, research shows that the common cold (which is caused by a virus) is more frequent in individuals with low natural killer cell function—and conversely, that greater natural killer cell function helps protect against viral outbreaks.<sup>16-18</sup>

The decline in natural killer cell activity has also been shown to increase the rates of viral infections, including viruses that cause **influenza** and viruses in the **herpes family**.<sup>19</sup> These include **cytomegalovirus** (**CMV**), **Epstein-Barr virus**, **varicella zoster** (which causes chicken pox and shingles), and **herpes simplex viruses** (causing oral and genital herpes).

Compounding the problem, cytomegalovirus (CMV) itself may directly contribute to the loss of immune function.<sup>54,55</sup> In one study, higher levels of CMV in older women correlated with an increased five-year risk of all-cause **mortality**.<sup>56</sup>

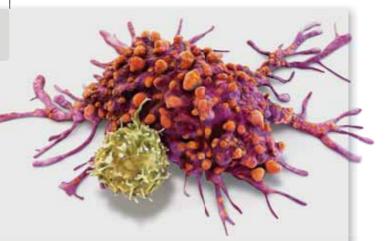
supplementation with *Cistanche* was **15%** longer than the controls'.<sup>41</sup>

In addition to T cells and natural killer cells, *Cistanche* also helps activate other important immune cells, including macrophages, dendritic cells, and B cells.<sup>42,43</sup>

Encouraging results have been demonstrated in a human study as well. When elderly subjects took **100 mg** of *Cistanche* extract daily for 12 weeks, there was a **6.1%** increase in **helper T cells** and an almost **12%** increase in **natural killer cell** activity. This increase represents an immune-boosting effect.<sup>44</sup>

Patients also experienced improved markers of vascular function and a decrease in fatigue. No significant adverse effects were observed.

Given that these same improvements in immune function resulted in enhanced longevity in animal studies,

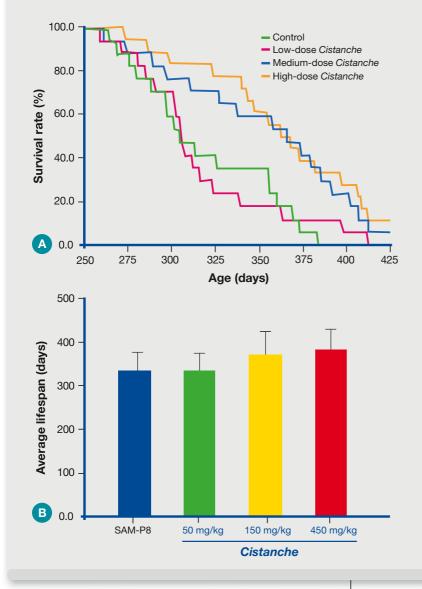


#### A Breakdown in the Body's Targeted Killers

**T cells** are targeted killers that are part of the body's **adaptive immunity**. If any infections go undetected by the natural killer cells, T cells are the "big guns" that step in and eliminate the infected cells.

These cells hunt down specific targets and stage a powerful attack to eliminate them once the enemy has been identified.

T cells contribute to **long-term immunity**, the phenomenon in which the body "remembers" an antigen (a virus, bacteria, or even a vaccine). That way, if an individual is later exposed to the same virus, bacteria, or antigen, the immune system is primed to destroy it more quickly in the future—often before any signs of the disease occur.



#### Lifespan Extension in Mice Supplemented with Cistanche41



A *Cistanche* increased survival of ageaccelerated mice. Control mice (green line) were all dead by about 382 days, and low-dose (pink) *Cistanche* mice had all died by about 413 days. About 5% of mice supplemented with medium (blue) and about 10% of mice supplemented with high (gold) doses of *Cistanche* were still alive by the end of the study, at 425 days.

**B** *Cistanche* increased average lifespan of mice. Control age-accelerated mice (blue) lived on average about 325 days, as did mice supplemented with low-dose *Cistanche* (green). Mice supplemented with medium (yellow) and high (red) doses of *Cistanche*, however, had longer lifespans compared with control mice, at about 350 and 375 days, respectively.<sup>41</sup>

it can be hoped that the rejuvenating effect *Cistanche* has on the human immune system may assist in prolonging lifespan in people as well.

A hallmark marker of longevity potential is blood levels of interleukin-6 (IL-6).

Older individuals with higher levels of **IL-6** tend to not live as long and tend to have a higher burden of chronic disease. On the other hand, older people with lower IL-6 levels tend to be healthier and have better prospects for even longer lives. (See table on next page.)

This makes sense because *elevated* IL-6 generates chronic inflammatory signals that result in tissue damage throughout the body.<sup>45-49</sup>

#### **Pu-erh Tea Extract's Immune Effects**

A fermented black tea called **Pu-erh** has shown benefits for the aging immune system.<sup>50</sup>

Studies show that Pu-erh tea and its extract combat immune senescence by multiple mechanisms.<sup>50</sup> Two of the chief ones include increasing **natural killer** and **T cells**.

In addition to its ability to bolster the immune system itself, **Pu-erh tea** appears to provide direct antibacterial and antiviral effects as well. Several studies have demonstrated that Pu-erh tea directly kills or inhibits the growth of bacteria and suppresses the growth of viruses such as hepatitis B.<sup>50</sup>

Death Risk Data in Response to Elevated IL-6 and C-reactive protein (CRP)		
Elevated <b>IL-6</b> and <b>C-reactive protein</b> are associated with a host of life-threatening conditions as shown below:	Biomarkers	
	IL-6	CRP
Increased risk of dying from any cause in people with a mean age of 6157	25%	
Increased risk of dying from any cause in people older than 8058	118%	158%
Increased risk of death following acute heart attack59	30%	30%
Increased risk of sudden cardiac death60	<b>63</b> %	
Increased risk of dying from any cause in patients with obstructive airway disease <sup>61</sup>	37%	
Increased risk of congestive heart failure following acute heart attack59	40%	40%
Increased risk of poor functional outcome after stroke62	210%	90%
Increased risk of knee osteoarthritis63	174%	
Increased risk of developing the blindness-inducing eye disease age-related macular degeneration (AMD) <sup>64</sup>	78%	118%

In one investigation, scientists studied the effects of Pu-erh tea on the senescence-accelerated strain of mice discussed previously.<sup>51</sup>

Before supplementation with Pu-erh tea, the mice demonstrated the same features of immune system deterioration seen in aging humans, including <u>lower</u> numbers of active T cells and natural killer cells.

In addition, levels of the powerful pro-inflammatory cytokine **IL-6** were markedly elevated in the senes-cence-accelerated mice, compared with controls.

Feeding these mice with Pu-erh tea *reversed* these markers of immune senescence.

The treated mice experienced enhanced numbers of T cells and natural killer cells and a significant **43%** decrease in **IL-6**—benefits that more closely resemble a normal, healthy immune system.

Based on these immune-boosting results, the researchers concluded that intake of Pu-erh tea may help older individuals prevent infection and cancer.

#### **Anti-Inflammatory Effects in Humans**

A **human** study of Pu-erh tea extract further demonstrated its role in reversing **inflammatory cytokine** levels.

The study was performed among a group of patients with **metabolic syndrome**, a common condition

defined by central obesity, borderline or high fasting glucose, high blood pressure, and elevated blood lipids.<sup>52</sup> Those with metabolic syndrome have higher levels of **inflammation** and are at an increased risk of having immune impairments.<sup>53</sup>

Subjects were given either **Pu-erh tea extract** twice daily or a placebo. They were instructed to exercise and observe a healthy diet during the study period but were permitted no medicines that might otherwise affect the results.

After three months, patients provided blood samples for analysis of **inflammatory cytokines** and other markers of inflammation.

As expected, placebo recipients showed no significant changes in blood levels of **TNF-a** or **IL-6** (proinflammatory cytokines), **IL-10** (an anti-inflammatory cytokine), or **C-reactive protein** (CRP, a marker of total body inflammation).

Subjects supplemented with **Pu-erh tea extract** showed improvements in immune status as follows:

- 21% reduction in IL-6,
- 23% reduction in TNF-a, and
- 26% reduction in CRP.

These reductions indicate significant decreases in overall pro-inflammatory status.

This study also found a **34%** <u>increase</u> of *inflammation-quelling* **IL-10**, which further demonstrates the overall reduction in inflammation possible with Pu-erh tea extract.

**Pu-erh tea extract** offers multiple pathways to potentially prevent progress of immune senescence.

#### Summary

**Immune senescence** occurs as people age and puts the elderly at increased risk for infections, cancers, and a variety of chronic inflammatory diseases.

Compounds naturally found in certain plants and fungi bolster weakened immune systems.

**Reishi mushrooms**, *Cistanche*, and *Pu-erh* tea can improve immune function by several complementary mechanisms, including amplifying the activity of natural killer cells, T cells, and various other immune system components.

They also help suppress over-activity of immune cells that can result in damaging inflammatory reactions.

Adding these nutrients to a healthy diet can help induce improvements in immune cell markers in older age. •



If you have any questions on the scientific content of this article, please call a **Life Extension**<sup>®</sup> Wellness Specialist at 1-866-864-3027.

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#### Reishi

• Helps reduce biomarkers of immune senescence.<sup>3</sup>

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### PERSONALIZED PRECISION IMMUNOTHERAPY: New Hope for Defeating Deadly Cancer

#### BY DIPNARINE MAHARAJ, MD, FACP



Science has made remarkable strides in the fight against **cancer**.

But too often, treatments still fail. Cancer remains the second most common cause of death in the U.S., after heart disease.

A new approach called **person**alized precision immunotherapy offers fresh hope to cancer patients who seem to have run out of options.

In the case of one leukemia patient who had failed chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant, and was given less than a year to live, a cutting-edge treatment increased the activity of his own immune system **more than nine-fold**.

This helped his body destroy the cancer and restore his immune system, leading to a recovery so dramatic, he recently completed his first triathlon.

Three years after he began treatment, his cancer remains *in complete remission*.

#### A Diagnosis and Failed Treatment

It was 2015. Richard (the patient's name has been changed to protect his privacy) was 37 years old, with no history of health problems, when he began feeling fatigue, lethargy, an ache in his back, and pain in his leg and ribs.<sup>1</sup>

Pain medication didn't help, and after two weeks, doctors performed a series of tests, including a complete blood count and a follow-up bone marrow biopsy. The results confirmed his worst fear: He had an aggressive form of **acute lymphoblastic leukemia**, a cancer of the blood and bone marrow.

The news got worse. Those cancer cells all carried the **Philadelphia chromosome**, an abnormality that makes treatment more difficult, relapse more likely, and prognoses poorer.<sup>1,2</sup>

At the previous clinic, before coming to the Maharaj Institute of Immune Regenerative Medicine, Richard embarked on a complicated five-drug **chemotherapy** regimen, primarily consisting of medications that stop wildly reproducing cells—but that also shut down many vital natural processes in the body, leading to severe side effects.<sup>1</sup>

Richard also received one of a new generation of cancer drugs, **imatinib**, which succeeded in suppressing the activity of the Philadelphia chromosome.

He then underwent another round of high-dose chemotherapy, along with total body irradiation to destroy all vestiges of his cancer cells.

That was followed by a **bone marrow transplant** from his brother. The goal was to repopulate Richard's cancer-ridden bone marrow with *healthy donor stem* cells from his brother, including donor immune cells that could directly attack the leukemia.

As often happens, Richard developed **graft-versus-host disease**, in which the immune cells from his brother turned on Richard's own tissues, attacking them and threatening his life.<sup>1</sup>

To manage the graft-versus-host disease, Richard received several drugs including steroids, chemotherapy such as methotrexate, and severe immune-suppressing drugs such as cyclosporine, in the hope that they'd control the donor marrow cells and stop their attacks on Richard's body. Fortunately, this approach worked—for a time.

But soon, a relapse occurred, with renewed activity of the Philadelphia chromosome evident. He then received an infusion of his brother's **lymphocytes** (immune cells made in the bone marrow). It seemed to work, putting him into a second remission, but a second relapse occurred a few months later.

At 39, Richard was told he had *less than a year to live*.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Remarkable Recovery**

But Richard's luck was about to change.

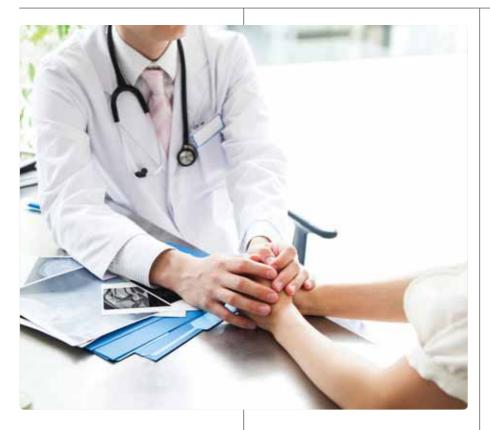
In March of 2017, he found his way to the **Maharaj Institute of Immune Regenerative Medicine** in Boynton Beach, FL, to discuss his few remaining options.<sup>1</sup>

Richard chose to go forward with an experimental treatment: *personalized, low-dose immunotherapy*.

Immunotherapy is a type of treatment that boosts the body's own, natural immune system, helping it fight disease.

Treatment began with daily lowdose injections of **interleukin-2** (IL-2), a naturally occurring human signaling protein. Its normal function





in the body is to regulate immune system cells, providing them with explicit instructions.

The goal of treatment was to selectively stimulate the transplanted immune cells to attack the leukemia—and to *stop* their assaults on Richard's own tissue.<sup>1</sup>

What made the therapy **personalized** was that Richard's blood was monitored daily to see how the treatment was working. The doses and duration of each cycle of IL-2 injections were **precisely** determined by the results.

Richard rapidly improved. Over the course of four cycles of treatment, there was an astonishing *nine-fold increase* in the activity of his own **natural killer cells**, immune cells containing enzymes that kill tumors.<sup>1</sup>

Levels of another signaling protein, **interferon-gamma**, which boosts the immune system, also rose dramatically and remained high throughout treatment. At the end of the 23-week course of immunotherapy, the total proportion of Richard's own cells that were fighting his cancer increased from just **7.1%** to **63.4%**.

At the same time, **regulatory T-cells**, which *suppress* immune response, declined significantly. These cells had been holding back Richard's immune cells from their full potential.

By the end of his treatment, Richard's blood showed no evidence of Philadelphia chromosome activity—and **no leukemia cells in his marrow**. Side effects of his treatment were limited to momentary, low-grade redness at the injection site.

Now, roughly three years after starting this personalized immunotherapy journey, Richard remains healthy, shows no symptoms, and has a normal quality of life.

In fact, the recovery has been so remarkable, he recently completed his first **triathlon**.

#### How Personalized Immunotherapy Works

Traditional chemotherapy or radiation treatments aim to wipe out cancer cells, but they kill so many healthy cells at the same time that they do severe damage to a patient.

And when treatment stops, the cancer too often comes back.

Even bone marrow transplants, that are sometimes part of the treatment of leukemia, lymphoma, and similar cancer, and which replace diseased blood-forming cells with fresh, healthy ones, can fail or lead to graft-versus-host disease.

**Personalized precision immunotherapy** takes a new approach. Administering recombinant (genetically engineered) **IL-2** stimulates our *own* **natural killer cells** to attack tumors.<sup>1,3</sup>

It also works to maintain the crucial condition of **immune tolerance**. That's what keeps our immune systems from working against us, and it is what breaks down when patients develop graft-versus-host disease.<sup>1,4-7</sup>

In Richard's case, IL-2 achieved both goals. It *raised* levels of tumorkilling natural killer cells and *suppressed* levels of cells trying to attack his healthy tissues. IL-2 also boosted levels of interferon gamma, which promotes the natural killer cells' abilities.<sup>1,8,9</sup>

One size does *not* fit all with this kind of treatment. Doctors created a *personalized* approach, selecting just the right compound (IL-2), administering it in carefully monitored amounts, and altering the dose in response to daily blood testing.

They achieved a nearly unheardof result: *complete remission* of an aggressive cancer, with minimal side effects and no evidence of new graft-versus-host disease. Researchers believe this type of treatment holds great promise in treating patients with many different forms of cancer.

It is important to understand that IL-2 became available as a cancer drug decades ago, in 1992, and initially there was great hope that it might effectively treat most malignancies.

However, the high-doses of IL-2 used in those early days yielded only marginal benefits against patients' cancers but inflicted serious side effects. Dr. Maharaj's approach uses personalized IL-2 dosing about **10%** as potent as when IL-2 is administered as frontline treatment. This lower dose yields marked improvements in immune function without serious side effects.

#### Summary

Many forms of cancer are still resistant to aggressive treatments like chemotherapy.

Adults with **recurrent acute lymphoblastic leukemia**, for example, have a dismal prognosis, with long-term survival measured in months.

But there's a new hope: **person**alized precision immunotherapy.

Using this treatment on a patient who had been given less than a year to live, doctors administered a potent signaling molecule, **IL-2**, to stimulate the immune system. The dose was adjusted in response to daily blood testing.

After 23 weeks of treatment with almost no side effects, his cancer is effectively gone. He remains healthy and cancer-free three years later. Personalized immunotherapy holds tremendous promise for treating deadly leukemias and may be of value for other cancers in the future. •

If you have any questions on the scientific content of this article, please call a Life Extension<sup>®</sup> Wellness Specialist at 1-866-864-3027.

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For more information on personalized precision immunotherapy, please contact the Maharaj Institute of Immune Regenerative Medicine at 561-752-5522 or info@miirm.org.

Dipnarine Maharaj, MD, FACP, has over 30 years of experience as an internist, hematologist, oncologist, and bone marrow/stem cell transplant physician. He is the Founder and Director of the South Florida Bone Marrow Stem Cell Transplant Institute DBA Maharaj Institute of Immune Regenerative Medicine in Boynton Beach, Florida. Dr. Maharaj is on the Scientific Advisory Board of Life Extension®.





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#### References

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BY MICHAEL DOWNEY

Reduce Effects of Excess Stress to Protect Immunity

It's hard to avoid **stress** during a global pandemic.

The concern is that increased **stress** can weaken **immune functions**.

Ongoing stress triggers **high levels** of **cortisol**, a steroid hormone.

Excess **cortisol** diminishes **immune functions**, and has been shown to increase disease risk while shortening human lifespans.<sup>1-17</sup>

A **2019** study found that *anticipating stress* the next day is associated with <u>elevated</u> **cortiso**l soon after waking up in the morning.<sup>18</sup>

Human studies demonstrate that specific **plant extracts** can <u>reduce</u> **cortisol** levels and inhibit its destructive effects.<sup>19-24</sup>

#### Stress Weakens Immune Function

A recent poll reports that **45%** of Americans feel that their mental health has been negatively impacted due to worry and stress over the novel **coronavirus**.<sup>25</sup>

**Cortisol** is one of the body's main **stress hormones**. During stressful times, the adrenal glands release it as part of the "**fight-or-flight**" response.<sup>26</sup>

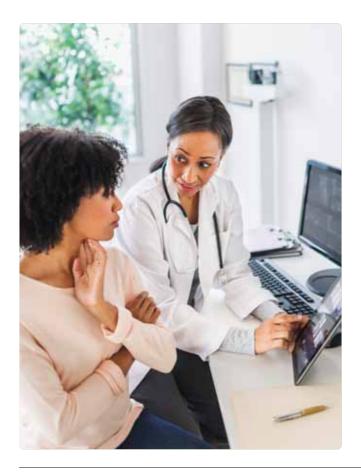
Necessary for life-or-death situations, cortisol directs a complex series of hormonal and physiological changes that support either fleeing to safety or fighting off the threat.<sup>27,28</sup>

Cortisol *boosts* muscle tension, blood sugar, heartbeat, tissue-repair substances, and mental focus. At the same time, **cortisol** turns <u>down</u> non-urgent processes such as **immune functions**, along with the digestive and reproductive systems.<sup>29</sup>

When the stressful threat has passed, cortisol is supposed to return to normal "balanced" levels.

When stressors are almost *always* present, as they have been since the **coronavirus** outbreak, **cortisol** remains "turned on."

Its continuing high presence in the blood adversely affects critical functions of the body and brain.<sup>30</sup>



#### Danger of Elevated Cortisol

**Stress** results in a <u>decrease</u> in levels of **lymphocytes**. These immune cells are used to kill viruses and other invaders.<sup>31,32</sup>

Lymphocyte counts are often reduced when one is fighting a **viral** infection.<sup>33-35</sup>

Even if it's just for a few days, **social isolation** and **loneliness**, both common during the current pandemic, also weaken immunity.<sup>36</sup>

Older individuals are more susceptible to stress and to stress-induced immune damage.<sup>37</sup>

*Long-term* overexposure to <u>excess</u> **cortisol** disrupts almost all body processes, increasing risk for health problems that include:<sup>1-17,38</sup>

- Immune impairment,
- Cardiovascular disease,
- Diabetes,
- Osteoporosis,
- Gastrointestinal problems,
- Obesity,
- Neurodegeneration, including Alzheimer's disease, and
- Anxiety, depression, and insomnia.

Most worrisome, chronically elevated cortisol is linked to increased **mortality** risk.

A large study of people over age 65 found that **men** with **high** cortisol levels were **63% more likely to die** than those with lower levels.

**Women** with elevated cortisol were **82% more likely to die** than those with low levels.<sup>5</sup> And those with high urinary cortisol had a **five-fold** increased risk of death from **cardiovascular disease**.<sup>3</sup>

Higher cortisol is also associated with shortening of **telomeres**, the stretches of DNA that cap the ends of chromosomes.<sup>39,40</sup> As telomeres shorten, the cells that bear them get closer to the ends of their lives, aging the tissues and organs in which they dwell.

It's impossible to avoid all stress, *especially* during a pandemic. But scientists have demonstrated that natural compounds can *lower excess cortisol* levels.

#### Lychee-Green Tea Blend Lowers Cortisol

Grown in China since the 11<sup>th</sup> century,<sup>41</sup> **lychee fruit** is rich in **polyphenols** that promote a variety of biological activities, most notably the ability to reduce **inflammation** and **cortisol** levels.<sup>19</sup>

Most **lychee** products sold today contain **longchain polyphenols**, which are <u>not</u> easily *absorbed* in the intestinal tract.

To overcome this obstacle scientists developed a **low molecular size** extract derived from **lychee fruit** and **green tea**.<sup>42</sup>

The result is a new compound that is stable and highly *absorbable*.

Researchers tested this **lychee-green tea blend** on human **monocytes**, a type of immune cell. They found that it significantly suppressed inflammatory signaling molecules called **cytokines**, helping to decrease inflammation.<sup>43</sup>

This confirmed earlier results from clinical trials that evaluated the **lychee-green tea** blend's ability to lower stress and *stress-induced cortisol*.

#### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

#### Counter the Immune-Damaging Effects of Stress

- Stress increases levels of the hormone cortisol, which can weaken immune function.
- A weak immune system raises the risk of infections caused by viruses and other pathogens.
- Chronically elevated cortisol increases the risk of other diseases—including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and neurodegeneration—and of overall mortality.
- Human studies show that both a lycheegreen tea blend and a combination of two bark extracts from Magnolia and Phellodendron trees reduce high cortisol levels.
- These compounds can effectively reduce unwanted circulating cortisol, safely inhibiting its destructive effects.

#### **Reducing Stress-Induced Cortisol**

Researchers randomly assigned 19 sedentary but healthy male volunteers (with an average age of 22) to take either a placebo or **100 mg** of the **lychee-green tea blend** daily for four weeks.

They conducted blood tests for **cortisol** and other inflammatory markers before and after the study, and after exercise, which raises cortisol levels.<sup>19</sup>

Unlike those in the placebo group, the men taking the blend showed significant *decreases* in **cortisol** and the pro-inflammatory cytokines **IL-1beta** and **IL-6**. The lychee-green tea extract also reduced the rate of increase of these factors following exercise.<sup>19</sup>

In another study, 10 healthy men took either a placebo or **100 mg** of the **lychee-green tea** blend twice daily for 10 days before exercising under low-oxygen conditions, to increase stress.<sup>20</sup>

Exercise increased cortisol substantially in the **placebo** group. The cortisol increase in the **lycheegreen tea** group was significantly *smaller*.<sup>20</sup>

#### **Physically Induced Cortisol**

Scientists next assessed the effects of the **lychee**green tea blend on cortisol and inflammation caused by *physical stress*.

Either a placebo or **100 mg** of the blend was given to 13 healthy males. After 30 minutes, the lower portion of each man's legs was immersed in hot water for half an hour. Researchers measured cortisol and inflammatory cytokines before and after this procedure.<sup>21</sup>

Compared to placebo subjects, lychee-green tea recipients had significantly *lower* concentrations of **cortisol**, **IL-1beta**, and **IL-6** after the heat-related stress. These benefits continued for up to two hours after the stress ended. (**IL-1beta** and **IL-6** are proinflammatory factors.)

Lychee-green tea recipients also had significantly *lower* increases in temperatures of the skin and body core during the application of heat, indicating a more balanced and improved response to the physically stressful event.<sup>21</sup>

Later studies confirmed that the **lychee-green tea** blend prevents heat-induced elevations in body temperature. This reduces fluid loss from sweating under heat stress and prevents stress-induced blunting of **immune response**.<sup>44-47</sup>

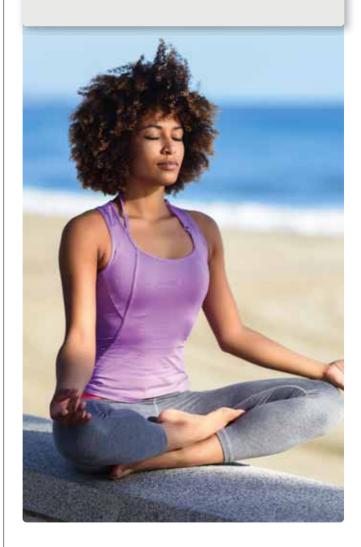
#### How to *Measure* Your Stress Levels

Living under the threat of a pandemic, **stress** can become so constant that you don't even notice *how* stressed you are.

A **cortisol blood test** allows you to find out whether your levels are elevated and by how much. If they're high, that's a sign of ongoing stress.

Lifestyle changes like meditation, exercise, and eating a healthy diet can bring this level down. Regular use of **safe**, **plant compounds** also lowers elevated cortisol and can prevent the immune-weakening effects of stress.

A follow-up **cortisol test** will show whether your efforts have been successful or need to be intensified.



#### **Effects of Tree Bark Extracts**

Scientists have identified two **tree bark extracts** that deliver similar protection against elevated **cortisol**.

The extracts come from a magnolia species, *Magnolia officinalis*, and *Phellodendron amurense*, also known as **Amur cork** tree.

Both have been used in traditional Chinese medicine for centuries and have been shown to have non-sedating **anti-anxiety** effects.<sup>22</sup>

In one study, investigators enlisted 56 healthy but moderately stressed individuals. Twice daily, participants were given either a placebo or **250 mg** of a mixture containing *both* **bark extracts**.<sup>23</sup>

After four weeks, the bark extract recipients had **18% lower cortisol levels** compared to placebo recipients. They also had mood improvements and reduced feelings of stress, depression, anger, and fatigue, all likely related to lowered cortisol.<sup>23</sup>

Two small, additional studies documented benefits of this bark extract blend:

- One six-week study was conducted on healthy but overweight premenopausal women (aged 20-50) with above-average anxiety. Compared to a placebo, a 250 mg dose of the bark extract combination, given three times a day, significantly decreased anxiety.<sup>22</sup>
- A second study was conducted on a similar group of women with above-average anxiety, who reported *eating more* in response to stress. The placebo group had significant weight gain over the six-week study. But weight gain was prevented in the bark extract subjects.<sup>24</sup>

Elevated cortisol weakens the immune system's ability to fight infection. **Lychee-green tea** blend and the **bark extract** combination have been shown to reduce <u>excessive</u> **cortisol** secretion in response to stress.

#### Summary

Stress weakens **immune functions** by raising levels of **cortisol**.

This increases the risks of infections and chronic diseases and shortens lifespans.

A **lychee-green tea blend** provides highly *absorb-able* nutrients that have been shown to lower cortisol in **human** studies.



A combination of **two bark extracts** from the *Magnolia* and *Phellodendron* trees has also been shown, in **human** trials, to <u>lower</u> cortisol and reduce outward manifestations of stress.

These compounds offer one approach to reducing excess **cortisol** levels, which may counteract some of the harmful effects inflicted by **chronic stress**. •

If you have any questions on the scientific content of this article, please call a Life Extension® Wellness Specialist at 1-866-864-3027.

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#### Available in Vanilla and Chocolate Flavors!

Whey protein, packed with vital amino acids, also promotes glutathione synthesis.

Glutathione plays an important role in supporting immune balance in the body.<sup>1</sup>

Whey fractions help modulate a full range of immune functions.<sup>2,3</sup>

## Support Healthy Immune Function with Whey Protein

#### WHEY PROTEIN CONCENTRATE

- Vanilla or chocolate flavor
- Delivers 20 grams of protein

Item # 02260 • Whey Protein Concentrate (Vanilla) • 500 grams (17.64 oz.)

Item # 02261 • Whey Protein Concentrate (Chocolate) • 640 grams (22.56 oz.)

1 container **\$22.50** • 4 containers \$19.95 each

Contains milk.

#### For full product description and to order Wellness Code<sup>®</sup> Whey Protein Concentrate, call 1-800-544-4440 or visit www.LifeExtension.com

Use this product as a food supplement only. Do not use for weight reduction. References: **1.** *Int J Gen Med.* 2011 Jan 25;4:105-13. **2.** *Br J Nutr.* 2000 Nov;84 Suppl 1:S81-9. **3.** *J Dairy Sci.* 2000 Jun;83(6):1187-95.



# Highly Absorbable

Astaxanthin is a carotenoid that benefits the brain, heart, skin, and immune system.

Found naturally in seafood and algae, as little as **50%** of **astaxanthin** is normally **absorbed** in the bloodstream.<sup>12</sup>

Life Extension<sup>®</sup> combines 4 mg of astaxanthin with a blend of four different phospholipids, which has been shown to enhance carotenoid *absorption* by several-fold.<sup>3</sup>

#### References

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For full product description and to order **Astaxanthin 4 mg with Phospholipids**, call 1-800-544-4440 or visit www.LifeExtension.com



**Item #01923 •** 30 softgels 1 bottle **\$12** 4 bottles \$10.50 each Astaxanthin 4 mg with Phospholipids DNA and Cellular Protection 30 sorrouta DECANY SUPPLIANE

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These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease.

## STRESSED??

Stress releases the hormone **cortisol** throughout the body. Maintaining healthy cortisol levels promotes healthy **immune function**.\*

**Cortisol-Stress Balance** for a greater sense of calm amid today's stressful challenges.

Item #02312 • 30 vegetarian capsules 1 bottle **\$33.75** 4 bottles \$30 each

For full product description and to order Cortisol-Stress Balance, call 1-800-544-4440 or visit www.LifeExtension.com

\* Available at: https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/stressmanagement/in-depth/stress/art-20046037. Accessed May 5, 2020 Relora $^{\odot}$  is a trademark of Lonza or its affiliates. Oligonol $^{\odot}$  is a registered trademark of Amino Up Chemical Co., Ltd.



NSION

Cortisol-Stress Balance

These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease.

### OPTIMIZE DIGESTION and INTESTINAL BALANCE

Digestive enzymes are essential to the body's **absorption** and optimal utilization of food and all its nutrients.<sup>1,2</sup>

The body's production of digestive enzymes decreases with age, leading to poor digestion and bloating, as well as other discomforts—especially after eating a large meal.

**Enhanced Super Digestive Enzymes** provides specific *enzymes* required to support the reactions that break down food proteins, fats, carbohydrates, and other nutrients.

Enhanced Super Digestive Enzymes with Probiotics provides the same enzymes that are in Enhanced Super Digestive Enzymes—but with the added benefits of the probiotic *B. coagulans*.

This **probiotic** creates a protective shield that resists digestion in the stomach, allowing it to fully colonize in the intestines to support digestive health and suppress less beneficial bacteria to improve digestive comfort.<sup>34</sup>

> For full product description and to order Enhanced Super Digestive Enzymes or Enhanced Super Digestive Enzymes with Probiotics, call 1-800-544-4440 or visit www.LifeExtension.com

#### Enhanced Super Digestive Enzymes

Item #02021 • 60 vegetarian capsules 1 bottle \$16.50 4 bottles \$15 each

#### EXTENSION

Enhanced Super Digestive Enzymes

60 CONTRACTOR CONTRACT

#### Enhanced Super Digestive Enzymes with Probiotics\*

Item #02022 · 60 vegetarian capsules

1 bottle **\$21** 

4 bottles \$18 each

Enhanced Super Digestive Enzymes and Probiotics

60 CAPECLES

#### References

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Lactospore<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark of Sabinsa Corp.



## Pecans

#### BY LAURIE MATHENA



Pecans are often associated with sugary foods like pecan pie, sweet potato casserole, or marshmallows. But to get the most health benefits, skip the sugar-laden treats and grab a handful of pecans on their own.

Technically a fruit rather than a nut, pecans are high in protein, at **three grams** per ounce. They also contain **healthy fats**.

#### **Heart Health**

Pecans are high in healthy fats that are known to promote heart health, like monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats.

In an eight-week, randomized, controlled study, one group of subjects consumed **68 grams** of pecans with their meals, while a second group did not eat the pecans. After eight weeks, the pecan-eating group experienced a reduction in both LDL cholesterol and total cholesterol.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Cancer Prevention**

Pecans contain a high amount of a specific type of monounsaturated fat called **oleic acid**.

One important laboratory study showed that oleic acid dramatically lowered the expression of a gene called **Her-2/neu** that is involved in the development of breast cancer.<sup>2</sup> This is significant, as activation of Her-2/neu is associated with aggressive tumors and a poor prognosis.

This finding is consistent with newer studies showing that adherence to the Mediterranean diet (high in monounsaturated fats like those in pecans) was associated with a reduced risk of breast cancer.<sup>3</sup>

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## SUPPORTS HEALTHY GLUCOSE **METABOLISM** IN THE BRAIN

Maintaining healthy blood sugar levels is essential for whole-body health.

Benfotiamine promotes healthy brain function<sup>1</sup> supporting healthy blood sugar metabolism and protects brain health.<sup>2</sup>

References

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Item #00925 • 120 vegetarian capsules 1 bottle \$22.50 • 4 bottles \$20.25 each

For full product description and to order Mega Benfotiamine, call 1-800-544-4440 or visit www.LifeExtension.com



These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease.

## SAFE-GUARD Your Skin from Within

Unique ORAL formula provides Polypodium leucotomos fern extract along with nicotinamide and red orange extract.



Item #01938 • 120 vegetarian capsules 1 bottle **\$33** 4 bottles \$30 each

For full product description and to order **Shade Factor™**, call 1-800-544-4440 or visit www.LifeExtension.com



This product is not a substitute for topical sunscreens.

Red Orange Complex® is a registered trademark of Bionap S.r.l.

#### **ACTIVE LIFESTYLE & FITNESS**

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- 02318 Keto Brain and Body Boost
- 02020 Super Carnosine
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- 02146 Wellness Bar–Chocolate Brownie
- 02147 Wellness Bar–Cookie Dough
- 02246 Wellness Code® Advanced Whey Protein Isolate Vanilla
- 02221 Wellness Code® Muscle Strength & Restore Formula 02127 Wellness Code® Plant Protein Complete & Amino Acid Complex
- 02261 Wellness Code® Whey Protein Concentrate Chocolate
- 02260 Wellness Code® Whey Protein Concentrate Chocolate
- 02243 Wellness Code® Whey Protein Isolate Chocolate
- 02242 Wellness Code<sup>®</sup> Whey Protein Isolate Vanilla
- 02220 Wellness Shake Chocolate
- 02219 Wellness Shake Vanilla

#### **AMINO ACIDS**

- 01039 Arginine & Ornithine Capsules
- 00038 Arginine Ornithine Powder
- 01253 Branched Chain Amino Acids
- 01829 Carnosine
- 01671 D,L-Phenylalanine Capsules
- 01624 L-Arginine Caps
- 01532 L-Carnitine
- 00345 L-Glutamine
- 00141 L-Glutamine Powder
- 01678 L-Lysine
- 00133 L-Taurine Powder
- 00326 L-Tyrosine Tablets
- 01827 Taurine

#### **BLOOD PRESSURE & VASCULAR SUPPORT**

- 01824Advanced Olive Leaf Vascular Support with<br/>Celery Seed Extract02004Arterial Protect70000Blood Pressure Monitor Arm Cuff7004Blood Pressure Monitor Digital Wrist Cuff02497Endothelial Defense™ Pomegranate Plus02320NitroVasc™ Boost00984Optimal BP Management01953Pomegranate Complete
- 00956 Pomegranate Fruit Extract
- 02024 Triple Action Blood Pressure AM/PM
- 02102 VenoFlow™

#### **BONE HEALTH**

- 01726 Bone Restore
- 02123 Bone Restore-Sugar-Free
- 01727 Bone Restore with Vitamin K2
- 01725 Bone Strength Collagen Formula
- 00313 Bone-Up™
- 01963 Calcium Citrate with Vitamin D 01506 Dr. Strum's Intensive Bone Formula
- 01476 Strontium Caps
- ortho Shonnum Caps

#### **BRAIN HEALTH**

- 01524 Acetyl-L-Carnitine
- 01974 Acetyl-L-Carnitine Arginate
- 01008 Blast™ 01659 Citicoline<sup>®</sup> (CDP-Choline)
- 02321 Cognitex<sup>®</sup> Basics
- 02396 Cognitex® Elite
- 02397 Cognitex<sup>®</sup> Elite Pregnenolone
- 01540 DMAE Bitartrate (dimethylaminoethanol)
- 02006 Dopa-Mind™
- 02212 Focus Tea™
- 01658 Ginkgo Biloba Certified Extract™
- 01527 Huperzine A

- 00020 Lecithin Granules
- 02101 Memory Protect
- 00709 Migra-Eeze™
- 01603 Neuro-Mag® Magnesium L-Threonate Caps
- 02032 Neuro-Mag® Magnesium L-Threonate Powder
- 00888 Optimized Ashwagandha Extract
- 01676 PS (Phosphatidylserine) Caps
- 01327 Vinpocetine

#### CHOLESTEROL MANAGEMENT

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- 01359 Cho-Less™
- 01910 CHOL-Support™
- 01030 Red Yeast Rice
- 01304 Theaflavins Standardized Extract
- 00372 Vitamin B3 Niacin Capsules

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- 54160 Black Vinegar
- 30747 Digest RC®
- 07136 Effervescent Vitamin C Magnesium Crystals
- 02021 Enhanced Super Digestive Enzymes
- 02022 Enhanced Super Digestive Enzymes and Probiotics
- 02033 EsophaCool™
- 01737 Esophageal Guardian
- 01706 Extraordinary Enzymes
- 02100 Gastro-Ease<sup>™</sup>
- 01122 Ginger Force™
- 00605 Regimint
- 01386 TruFiber®

#### **ENERGY MANAGEMENT**

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- 01630 Adrenal Energy Formula 120 veg capsules
- 01805 Asian Energy Boost
- 00972 D-Ribose Powder
- 01473 D-Ribose Tablets
- 01900 Energy Renew
- 01544 Forskolin
- 00668 Metabolic Advantage Thyroid Formula™
- 01869 Mitochondrial Basics with PQQ
- 01868 Mitochondrial Energy Optimizer with PQQ
- 01904 NAD<sup>+</sup> Cell Regenerator<sup>™</sup> 100 mg, 30 veg capsules
- 02344 NAD<sup>+</sup> Cell Regenerator<sup>™</sup> Nicotinamide Riboside 300 mg, 30 veg capsules
- 02348 Optimized NAD<sup>+</sup> Cell Regenerator<sup>™</sup> and Resveratrol

01993 MacuGuard® Ocular Support with Saffron & Astaxanthin

01500 PQQ Caps • 10 mg 01647 PQQ Caps • 20 mg

02003 Triple Action Thyroid

02323 Digital Eye Support

**FISH OIL & OMEGAS** 

01937 Mega EPA/DHA

00463 Flaxseed Oil

02311 Clearly EPA/DHA Fish Oil

02218 Mega GLA Sesame Lignans

01983 Super Omega-3 EPA/DHA Fish Oil,

Sesame Lignans & Olive Extract

01923 Astaxanthin with Phospholipids

01918 Tear Support with MaquiBright®

01514 Eye Pressure Support with Mirtogenol® 01992 MacuGuard® Ocular Support with Saffron

01873 Standardized European Bilberry Extract

00889 Rhodiola Extract

**EYE HEALTH** 

00893 Brite Eyes III

- 01988 Super Omega-3 Plus EPA/DHA Fish Oil, Sesame Lignans, Olive Extract, Krill & Astaxanthin
- 01982 Super Omega-3 EPA/DHA Fish Oil, Sesame Lignans & Olive Extract • 120 softgels
- 01985 Super Omega-3 EPA/DHA Fish Oil, Sesame Lignans & Olive Extract • 60 enteric coated softgels
- 01984 Super Omega-3 EPA/DHA Fish Oil, Sesame Lignans & Olive Extract • 120 enteric coated softgels
- 01986 Super Omega-3 EPA/DHA Fish Oil, Sesame Lignans & Olive Extract • 240 softgels
- 01812 Provinal® Purified Omega-7
- 01640 Vegetarian DHA

#### FOOD

- 02008 California Estate Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- 02170 Rainforest Blend Decaf Ground Coffee
- 02169 Rainforest Blend Ground Coffee
- 02171 Rainforest Blend Whole Bean Coffee
- 00438 Stevia<sup>™</sup> Organic Liquid Sweetner
- 00432 Stevia<sup>™</sup> Sweetener

#### **GLUCOSE MANAGEMENT**

- 01503 CinSulin® with InSea<sup>2®</sup> and Crominex® 3+
- 01620 CoffeeGenic® Green Coffee Extract
- 02122 Glycemic Guard<sup>™</sup>
- 00925 Mega Benfotiamine
- 01803 Tri Sugar Shield®

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- 01066 Aspirin (Enteric Coated)
- 01842 BioActive Folate & Vitamin B12 Caps
- 01700 Cardio Peak<sup>™</sup> with Standardized Hawthorn and Arjuna
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- 02018 Optimized Carnitine
- 01949 Super-Absorbable CoQ10 Ubiquinone with *d*-Limonene • 50 mg, 60 softgels
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- 01437 Super Ubiquinol CoQ10 with Enh Mitochondrial Support™ • 100 mg, 30 softgels
- 01426 Super Ubiquinol CoQ10 with Enh Mitochondrial Support™ • 100 mg, 60 softgels
- 01431 Super Ubiquinol CoQ10 with Enh Mitochondrial Support<sup>™</sup> • 200 mg, 30 softgels
- 01733 Super Ubiquinol CoQ10 with PQQ
- 01859 TMG Liquid Capsules
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#### **HORMONE BALANCE**

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- 00335 DHEA (Dehydroepiandrosterone) 25 mg, 100 capsules
- 00882 DHEA (Dehydroepiandrosterone) 50 mg, 60 capsules
- 00607 DHEA (Dehydroepiandrosterone) 25 mg, 100 tablets (dissolve in mouth)
- 01689 DHEA (Dehydroepiandrosterone) 100 mg, 60 veg capsules
- 02368 Optimized Broccoli and Cruciferous Blend
- 00302 Pregnenolone 50 mg, 100 capsules
- 00700 Pregnenolone 100 mg, 100 capsules
- 01468 Triple Action Cruciferous Vegetable Extract
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- 02302 Bio-Quercetin
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- 02005 Immune Senescence Protection Formula™

PRODUCT

- 29727 Kinoko® Gold AHCC
- 24404 Kinoko<sup>®</sup> Platinum AHCC
- 00316 Kyolic<sup>®</sup> Garlic Formula 102
- 00789 Kyolic<sup>®</sup> Reserve
- 01681 Lactoferrin (Apolactoferrin) Caps 01903 NK Cell Activator<sup>™</sup>
- 01394 Optimized Garlic
- 01309 Optimized Quercetin
- 01811 Peony Immune
- 00525 ProBoost Thymic Protein A
- 01708 Reishi Extract Mushroom Complex
- 01906 Standardized Cistanche
- 13685 Ten Mushroom Formula®
- 01097 Ultra Soy Extract
- 01561 Zinc Lozenges

#### INFLAMMATION MANAGEMENT

- 01639 5-LOX Inhibitor with AprèsFlex®
- 02324 Advanced Curcumin Elite™
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- 01709 Black Cumin Seed Oil
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- 00202 Boswella
- 02467 Curcumin Elite<sup>™</sup> Turmeric Extract 30 veg capsules
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- 01804 Cytokine Suppress<sup>®</sup> with EGCG
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- 01617 ArthroMax<sup>®</sup> with Theaflavins & AprèsFlex<sup>®</sup>
- 02138 ArthroMax<sup>®</sup> Elite
- 00965 Fast-Acting Joint Formula
- 00522 Glucosamine/Chondroitin Capsules
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01651 Calcium D-Glucarate

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01209 Water-Soluble Pumpkin Seed Extract

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01922 European Milk Thistle • 60 softgels

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02402 FLORASSIST<sup>®</sup> Liver Restore<sup>™</sup>

01541 Glutathione, Cysteine & C

01608 Liver Efficiency Formula

01534 N-Acetyl-L-Cysteine

01925 European Milk Thistle • 120 softgels

00342 PectaSol-C® Modified Citrus Pectin Powder 01080 PectaSol-C® Modified Citrus Pectin Capsules 01884 Silymarin 02361 SOD Booster

#### LONGEVITY & WELLNESS

- 00457 Alpha-Lipoic Acid 01625 AppleWise Polyphenol Extract 01214 Blueberry Extract 01438 Blueberry Extract with Pomegranate 02270 DNA Protection Formula 02119 GEROPROTECT® Ageless Cell™ 02133 GEROPROTECT<sup>®</sup> Longevity A.I.™ 02401 GEROPROTECT® Stem Cell 02211 Grapeseed Extract 00954 Mega Green Tea Extract (decaffeinated) 00953 Mega Green Tea Extract (lightly caffeinated) 01513 Optimized Fucoidan with Maritech® 926 02230 Optimized Resveratrol 01637 Pycnogenol® French Maritime Pine Bark Extract 02210 Resveratrol 00070 RNA (Ribonucleic Acid) 02301 Senolytic Activator
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- 02209 Male Vascular Sexual Support
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- 01837 Pomi-T®
- 01373 Prelox® Enhanced Sex for Men
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- 01909 Triple Strength ProstaPollen™
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- 01459 Magnesium Caps
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- 01504 Optimized Chromium with Crominex® 3+
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- 01740 Sea-Iodine™
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- 01778 Super Selenium Complex
- 00213 Vanadyl Sulfate
- 01813 Zinc Caps

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

- 00577 Potassium lodide
- 00657 Solarshield® Sunglasses

#### **MOOD & STRESS MANAGEMENT**

- 02312 Cortisol-Stress Balance
- 00987 Enhanced Stress Relief
- 01074 5 HTP
- 01683 L-Theanine
- 02175 SAMe (S-Adenosyl-Methionine) 200 mg, 30 enteric coated tablets
- 02176 SAMe (S-Adenosyl-Methionine) 400 mg, 30 enteric coated tablets
- 02174 SAMe (S-Adenosyl-Methionine) 400 mg, 60 enteric coated tablets

#### **MULTIVITAMINS**

- 02199 Children's Formula Life Extension Mix™
- 02498 Comprehensive Nutrient Packs ADVANCED
- 02354 Life Extension Mix<sup>™</sup> Capsules
- 02364 Life Extension Mix<sup>™</sup> Capsules without Copper
- 02356 Life Extension Mix<sup>™</sup> Powder
- 02355 Life Extension Mix<sup>™</sup> Tablets
- 02357 Life Extension Mix<sup>™</sup> Tablets with Extra Niacin
- 02365 Life Extension Mix<sup>™</sup> Tablets without Copper
- 02292 Once-Daily Health Booster 30 softgels
- 02291 Once-Daily Health Booster 60 softgels
- 02313 One-Per-Day Tablets
- 02317 Two-Per-Day Capsules 60 capsules
- 02314 Two-Per-Day Capsules 120 capsules
- 02316 Two-Per-Day Tablets 60 tablets
- 02315 Two-Per-Day Tablets 120 tablets

#### **NERVE & COMFORT SUPPORT**

- 02202 ComfortMAX™
- 02303 PEA Discomfort Relief

#### **PERSONAL CARE**

- 01006 Biosil<sup>™</sup> 5 mg, 30 veg capsules
- 01007 Biosil<sup>™</sup> 1 fl oz
- 00321 Dr. Proctor's Advanced Hair Formula
- 00320 Dr. Proctor's Shampoo
- 02322 Hair, Skin & Nails Collagen Plus Formula
- 01278 Life Extension Toothpaste
- 00408 Venotone
- 00409 Xyliwhite Mouthwash
- 02304 Youthful Collagen
- 02252 Youthful Legs

#### PET CARE

- 01932 Cat Mix
- 01931 Dog Mix

#### PROBIOTICS

- 01622 Bifido GI Balance
- 01825 FLORASSIST® Balance
- 02125 FLORASSIST® GI with Phage Technology
- 01821 FLORASSIST® Heart Health
- 02250 FLORASSIST® Mood Improve
- 02208 FLORASSIST® Nasal
- 02120 FLORASSIST® Oral Hygiene
- 02203 FLORASSIST® Prebiotic
- 01920 FLORASSIST® Throat Health
- 52142 Jarro-Dophilus® for Women
- 00056 Jarro-Dophilus EPS® 60 veg capsules
- 21201 Jarro-Dophilus EPS® 120 veg capsules
- 01038 Theralac® Probiotics
- 01389 TruFlora® Probiotics

80118 Anti-Aging Mask

#### **SKIN CARE**

- 80157 Advanced Anti-Glycation Peptide Serum
- 80165 Advanced Growth Factor Serum
- 80170 Advanced Hyaluronic Acid Serum
- 80154 Advanced Lightening Cream
- 80155 Advanced Peptide Hand Therapy

80137 All-Purpose Soothing Relief Cream

80151 Anti-Aging Rejuvenating Face Cream

80153 Anti-Aging Rejuvenating Scalp Serum

80176 Collagen Boosting Peptide Cream

80156 Collagen Boosting Peptide Serum

80139 Amber Self MicroDermAbrasion

- 80175 Advanced Probiotic-Fermented Eye Serum
- 80152 Advanced Triple Peptide Serum 80140 Advanced Under Eye Serum with Stem Cells

- 80169 Cucumber Hydra Peptide Eye Cream
- 80141 DNA Support Cream
- 80167 Environmental Support Serum
- 80163 Eye Lift Cream
- 80123 Face Rejuvenating Anti-Oxidant Cream
- 80109 Hyaluronic Facial Moisturizer
- 80110 Hyaluronic Oil-Free Facial Moisturizer
- 80138 Hydrating Anti-Oxidant Facial Mist
- 00661 Hydroderm
- 80103 Lifting & Tightening Complex
- 80168 Melatonin Advanced Peptide Cream 80114 Mild Facial Cleanser
- 80172 Multi Stem Cell Hydration Cream
- 80159 Multi Stem Cell Skin Tightening Complex
- 80122 Neck Rejuvenating Anti-Oxidant Cream
- 80174 Purifying Facial Mask
- 80150 Renewing Eye Cream
- 80142 Resveratrol Anti-Oxidant Serum
- 01938 Shade Factor™
- 02129 Skin Care Collection Anti-Aging Serum
- 02130 Skin Care Collection Day Cream
- 02131 Skin Care Collection Night Cream
- 80166 Skin Firming Complex
- 02096 Skin Restoring Ceramides
- 80130 Skin Stem Cell Serum
- 80164 Skin Tone Equalizer
- 80143 Stem Cell Cream with Alpine Rose
- 80148 Tightening & Firming Neck Cream
- 80161 Triple-Action Vitamin C Cream
- 80162 Ultimate MicroDermabrasion
- 80173 Ultimate Peptide Serum
- 80160 Ultra Eyelash Booster
- 80101 Ultra Wrinkle Relaxer
- 80113 Under Eye Refining Serum
- 80104 Under Eye Rescue Cream
- 80171 Vitamin C Lip Rejuvenator
- 80129 Vitamin C Serum
- 80136 Vitamin D Lotion 80102 Vitamin K Cream

#### SLEEP

- 01512 Bioactive Milk Peptides
- 02300 Circadian Sleep
- 01551 Enhanced Sleep with Melatonin
- 01511 Enhanced Sleep without Melatonin
- 02234 Fast-Acting Liquid Melatonin
- 01669 Glycine
- 02308 Herbal Sleep PM
- 01722 L-Tryptophan
- 01668 Melatonin 300 mcg, 100 veg capsules
- 01083 Melatonin 500 mcg, 200 veg capsules
- 00329 Melatonin 1 mg, 60 capsules
- 00330 Melatonin 3 mg, 60 veg capsules
- 00331 Melatonin 10 mg, 60 veg capsules
- 00332 Melatonin 3 mg, 60 veg lozenges
- 02201 Melatonin IR/XR
- 01787 Melatonin 6 Hour Timed Release 300 mcg, 100 veg tablets
- 01788 Melatonin 6 Hour Timed Release 750 mcg, 60 veg tablets
- 01786 Melatonin 6 Hour Timed Release 3 mg, 60 veg tablets
- 01721 Optimized Tryptophan Plus
- 01444 Quiet Sleep
- 01445 Quiet Sleep Melatonin

#### VITAMINS

- 01533 Ascorbyl Palmitate
- 00920 Benfotiamine with Thiamine
- 00664 Beta-Carotene
- 01945 BioActive Complete B-Complex
- 00102 Biotin
- 00084 Buffered Vitamin C Powder
- 02229 Fast-C<sup>®</sup> and Bio-Quercetin Phytosome
- 02075 Gamma E Mixed Tocopherol Enhanced with Sesame Lignans
- 02070 Gamma E Mixed Tocopherol/Tocotrienols
- 01913 High Potency Optimized Folate
- 01674 Inositol Caps Liquid Emulsified
- 02244 Liquid Vitamin D3 2,000 IU, 1 fl oz
- 02232 Liquid Vitamin D3 2,000 IU, 1 fl oz, mint
- 01936 Low-Dose Vitamin K2
- 01536 Methylcobalamin 1 mg, 60 veg lozenges
- 01537 Methylcobalamin 5 mg, 60 veg lozenges
- 00065 MK-7
- 00373 No Flush Niacin
- 01939 Optimized Folate (L-Methylfolate)
- 01217 Pyridoxal 5'-Phosphate Caps
- 01400 Super Absorbable Tocotrienols
- 02334 Super K
- 02335 Super K Elite
- 01863 Super Vitamin E
- 02028 Vitamin B5 (Pantothenic Acid)
- 01535 Vitamin B6
- 00361 Vitamin B12
- 02228 Vitamin C and Bio-Quercetin Phytosome 1,000 mg, 60 veg tablets
- 02227 Vitamin C and Bio-Quercetin Phytosome 1,000 mg, 250 veg tablets
- 01753 Vitamin D3 25 mcg (1,000 IU), 90 softgels
- 01751 Vitamin D3 25 mcg (1,000 IU), 250 softgels
- 01713 Vitamin D3 125 mcg (5,000 IU), 60 softgels
- 01718 Vitamin D3 175 mcg (7,000 IU), 60 softgels
- 01758 Vitamin D3 with Sea-Iodine™
- 02040 Vitamins D and K with Sea-Iodine™

#### **WEIGHT MANAGEMENT & BODY COMPOSITION**

- 00658 7-Keto® DHEA Metabolite 25 mg, 100 capsules
- 02479 7-Keto® DHEA Metabolite 100 mg, 60 veg capsules

01492 Optimized Irvingia with Phase 3<sup>™</sup> Calorie Control Complex

01509 Advanced Anti-Adipocyte Formula 01807 Advanced Appetite Suppress

01823 CalReduce Selective Fat Binder

01432 Optimized Saffron with Satiereal®

02151 Wellness Code® Appetite Control

01626 Enhanced Sex for Women 50+

01064 Femmenessence MacaPause®

01649 Super-Absorbable Soy Isoflavones

01908 Mediterranean Trim with Sinetrol<sup>™</sup> -XPur

00818 Super CLA Blend with Sesame Lignans

02207 AMPK Metabolic Activator

02478 DHEA Complete

01902 Waist-Line Control<sup>™</sup>

01942 Breast Health Formula

01894 Estrogen for Women

02204 Menopause 731<sup>™</sup>

01441 Progesta-Care®

02319 Prenatal Advantage

WOMEN'S HEALTH

01738 Garcinia HCA

01292 Integra-Lean®

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4 bottles \$29 each

 +\*\*VENOFLOW™

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 1 bottle \$39

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\*PYCNOGENOL® French Maritime Pine Bark Extract Item #01637 • 60 vegetarian capsules 1 bottle \$48 4 bottles \$45 each

#### **Arterial Protect**

Provides Pycnogenol<sup>®</sup> and standardized gotu kola leaf extract to help stabilize endothelial plaque and promote healthy blood flow throughout the body.

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Numerous published studies describe how concentrated extracts in Pycnogenol<sup>®</sup> help protect against multiple factors related to normal aging.

For full product descriptions and to order **Pycnogenol®**, **Arterial Protect**, or **VenoFlow™**, call 1-800-544-4440 or visit www.LifeExtension.com



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\*\*CAUTION: Consult your healthcare provider before use of VenoFlow™ if taking medication (especially those affecting blood coagulation or blood pressure), being treated for a medical condition (especially bleeding disorders), under the age of 18, pregnant, or lactating.

These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. These products are not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease.

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Curcumin Elite<sup>™</sup> utilizes a <u>new</u> patented turmeric extract that results in 45 times greater bioavailability of active or free curcuminoids and 270 times better total curcuminoid absorption compared to standard curcumin.

**Curcumin Elite**<sup>™</sup> contributes to *higher* **blood levels** of bio-active curcuminoids that **stay in the body longer** to provide more health benefits.

Advanced Curcumin Elite<sup>™</sup> contains the same optimal 500 mg potency of curcumin with the <u>added</u> benefits of ginger and additional turmeric actives.

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1 bottle **\$24** 4 bottles \$22 each Advanced Curcumin Elite Turmeric Extract Ginger & Turmerons

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> 1 bottle **\$20** 4 bottles \$18 each

For full product description and to order Curcumin Elite™ or Advanced Curcumin Elite™, call 1-800-544-4440 or visit www.LifeExtension.com



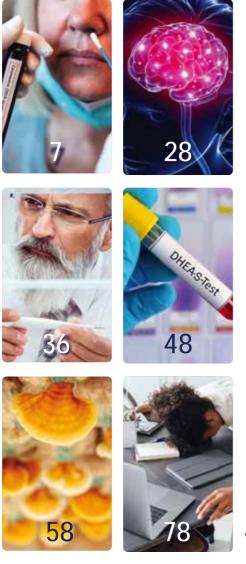
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#### The Science of a Healthier Life<sup>™</sup>

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