



# ANTI-OBESITY MEDICATIONS (AOM)

Curb Cravings | Boost Mindfulness | Heighten Awareness



Pinehurst Medical Clinic



# APPETITE MANAGEMENT

## “H E L P ! I’M ON ANTI-OBESITY MEDICATIONS AND I DON’T WANT TO EAT!”

Anti-obesity medications are a great tool to help manage cravings, improve mindfulness when eating and become more aware of why we are eating to assist you in your weight loss journey.

Even when these medications are part of your care plan, meeting your calorie needs are still important so your body will burn fat and not muscle.

## **SMALLER, MORE FREQUENT MEALS/MORE SUBSTANTIAL SNACKS.**

### **THE LARGER THE MEAL, THE SLOWER THE MEAL WILL EMPTY.**

Eating smaller, more frequent meals/snacks will help you meet your energy needs so you are losing body fat and not muscle.

### **TRY AIMING FOR 200-300 CALORIE SMALL MEALS OR SNACKS MORE OFTEN THROUGHOUT THE DAY INSTEAD OF HEAVIER & LARGER MEALS.**

Individual energy needs for weight loss vary per person, but it's important for women not to fall below 1200 calories per day and men not to fall below 1500 calories a day to ensure metabolism support.

#### **SOME MENU EXAMPLES:** (EACH PROVIDE ~300 CALORIES)

- 1/4 cup hummus + 1oz pretzels +small apple
- 1 slice white toast + peanut butter (1tbsp) + 1 small banana (5-6 inch)
- 2% milk cheese (1 slice) + crackers (serving of wheat thins) + low fat yogurt (6oz)
- Low fat Greek yogurt (6oz) + low fat granola (1/4 cup) + strawberries (1/2 cup) mixed with 1 tbsp powdered peanut butter

## **ALTERNATE HIGHER FIBER FOODS THROUGHOUT THE DAY OR TRY SMALLER AMOUNTS.**

Fiber is fabulous in that it keeps us full longer, but with anti-obesity medicine, too much fiber can further reduce the desire to eat enough.

### **ALTERNATE BETWEEN MEALS AND SNACKS:**

- Raw and cooked vegetables/fruits
- Cooked vegetables/soft/peeled fruits and vegetables have less fiber than raw and often sit in the stomach differently.

### **HIGHER AND LOWER FIBER GRAINS**

#### **HIGHER FIBER: 3G OR HIGHER ON FOOD LABEL**

- Whole grain pasta
- Brown rice
- High fiber tortillas (like Mission Carb Balance, Whole Wheat Tortillas)
- High fiber cereals (like Fiber One, Kashi, Shredded Wheat)
- Raw Fruits and vegetables/peel on
- Dried Fruits
- Legumes/dried beans

#### **LOWER FIBER: LESS THAN 3G ON FOOD LABEL**

- Cooked fruits/vegetables
- White pasta
- White rice
- Lower fiber containing cereals (like: Rice Krispies, Cheerios, original Special K)





# HEALTHY FATS

## **FAT IS A NECESSARY NUTRIENT FOR BODY FUNCTIONS. IT KEEPS US WARM AND PROTECTS OUR ORGANS.**

Like fiber, it also empties a little slower from the stomach, which can cause you to feel overly full while on AOM.

## **ADDING A SERVING OF HEALTHY FAT TO A MEAL OR SNACK CAN HELP TO MEET YOUR ENERGY NEEDS IN A SMALL VOLUME OF FOOD.**

You may need to split these servings up even further throughout the day if you find yourself overly full and not wanting to eat.

- Add 1-2 Tbsp natural peanut butter or nut butters
- 1/2 avocado
- 1/4 cup nuts

## **IT'S ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF FAT AT A SITTING VS JUST TYPE OF FAT.**

Your heart knows the difference between a heart helpful fat or a heart harmful fat... your stomach only cares about the amount at one time.

## **CHOOSE FOODS THAT ARE LOWER IN FAT:**

A good guideline is 3 g total fat for every 100 calories a food has in it.

## SNACK IDEAS

(MOST UNDER 200 CALORIES)

### FOOD BASED OPTIONS:

- One medium piece of fruit with 10-12 almonds
- 1/2 cup berries with 1 cup of low fat or fat free greek yogurt (or low fat cottage cheese)
- 1 cup of veggies with 2 tablespoons of hummus dip
- 1 hard boiled egg with 10-12 almonds
- 1 sliced apple with 1-2 slices of low fat cheese
- 1 tuna packet with 6 wheat crackers
- deli meat or smoked salmon on cucumber slices (use these as a sub for crackers)
- 1 cup chickpeas or black beans
- P3 Portable protein snack pack (in Deli section)
- 1oz nut packs (See Amazon for Blue Diamond on the go 1 oz nut packs, dark chocolate flavor)
- Whisps cheese crisps

### PROTEIN BARS AND SNACKS:

- Premier protein shakes (Could also use Walmart Equate high performance shakes)
- Orgain protein shake (Plant based option if desired)
- Quest protein chips (Walmart, Harris Teeter, Amazon)
- ONE Bars
- Flex protein chips (Amazon)
- Power Crunch Bars
- Pure Protein bars
- Pure protein Cheesy Crackers (Amazon)
- Larry Irvine "Fit crunch"



**SNACK  
IDEAS**



**SAMPLE MENU: MINIMUM  
1200-1300 CALORIES**

(MEALS ~300 CALORIES/EACH)

**MEAL 1**

- 1 egg + 1 slice 2% milk cheese
- 2 tsp butter
- 1/2 English muffin

**MEAL 2**

- 8oz Fairlife 2% milk
- Small 6 in banana
- 1 tbsp Natural No stir peanut butter

**MEAL 3**

- 2 oz deli turkey
- 2 tbsp hummus
- 1 oz feta cheese
- 6 inch whole grain tortilla
- 1/2 cup raw spinach
- Small apple

**MEAL 4**

- 1 cup chicken
- stir fry veggies
- 1 cup jasmine rice

**TOTAL CALORIES:  
~1300 CALORIES****SAMPLE MENU: MINIMUM  
1400-1500 CALORIES**

(MEALS ~300 CALORIES/EACH)

**MEAL 1**

- 1 egg + 1 slice 2% milk cheese
- 2 tsp butter
- 1/2 English muffin
- 4 oz 100% orange juice

**MEAL 2**

- 8 oz Fairlife 2% milk
- Small 6in banana
- 1 tbsp peanut butter

**MEAL 3**

- 2 oz deli turkey
- 2 tbsp hummus
- 1 oz feta cheese
- 6 inch whole grain tortilla
- 1/2 cup raw spinach
- Cucumber slices
- Small apple

**MEAL 4**

- 1 cup chicken
- stir fry veggies
- 1 cup jasmine rice

**MEAL 5**

- 8oz Fairlife 2% milk

**TOTAL CALORIES:  
~1500 CALORIES****SAMPLE  
MENUS**

## COMMON SIDE EFFECTS & WAYS TO MANAGE THEM

### RISK OF PREGNANCY:

GLP-1's are contraindicated in pregnancy. Women of childbearing age should be on treatment to avoid pregnancy if sexually active. Women on birth control medications should use a back-up or barrier method of birth control for the first four weeks of medication administration and for four weeks after each dose increase to avoid pregnancy. Talk with your provider if you have any further questions.

### NAUSEA/GERD:

A lot of times, patients are dehydrated or have not eaten anything and simply have low blood sugar. Patients need to pause and reflect on why they are experiencing nausea. If the patient is not experiencing dehydration or low blood sugar, the next consideration should focus on the patient's last few meals or snacks. Foods that are fatty/greasy or highly processed tend to take longer to breakdown and can exacerbate side effects of AOMs such as GERD/reflux and nausea. Therefore, fatty/greasy or highly processed foods should be eaten in moderation. Lastly, remember the importance of fullness cues. If ignored and one overeats, nausea can be extreme and even lead to vomiting or reflux. Patients may be prescribed anti-nausea medications when they first start a GLP-1 medication, such as Ozempic, Saxenda, or Wegovy, as this can help alleviate nausea on particularly challenging days. If taking anti-nausea medication, Tums, or protonix omeprazole for GERD, be careful not to become dependent on these medicines. They can mask a patient's symptoms.

### CONSTIPATION:


Due to the delayed gastric emptying, we know that patients can have extreme constipation on these medications. This is sometimes worsened as patients are not eating enough and often very protein first focused. Obviously, patients need to add in as much dietary fiber as possible, but if this is difficult patients could consider initiating fiber supplementation. Hydration is also critical with a patient needing at least 64 oz of water daily. Physical activity is also important to help stimulate the bowel. If there is no bowel movement in three days, patients should discuss starting MiraLAX with their provider.

### SULFUR BURPS:

While it is less common, sulfur burps are something that occasionally occur. Remember that digestion starts in the mouth, so slow down and chew food to applesauce consistency as it will allow initial digestion enzymes to start the process. Again, limit greasy/fatty foods as well as processed foods, as they are more complex and harder to breakdown. Stay active to keep food moving through the GI system. If constipated, see above paragraph, as it is important to keep food moving through the digestive system to help with any symptoms. Consider starting a probiotic to assist with gut flora and food breakdown.

If you have a particularly challenging day with any of the above symptoms, consider taking a step back in your diet and deferring to a liquid diet for 2-3 meals to allow for easier and faster digestion.



A man is shown from the chest up, smiling, wearing a blue button-down shirt over a grey t-shirt. He has a black backpack with a rolled-up blue yoga mat attached to the back. He is holding a hiking stick in his left hand. The background is a lush green forest.

# ANTI-OBESITY MEDICATIONS

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