

Functional Medicine: Eat the Rainbow Diet and Supercharge Your Health

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One of the most important things you can do to improve your health is to eat a plant rich diet.

Plant rich means that the majority of your diet consists of plant foods while at the same time adding an adequate amount of quality protein and healthy fats (avocados, coconut and nuts).

Plant foods are absolutely necessary to improve your gut microbiome because they contain fiber and phytonutrients.

Phytonutrients or phytochemicals contain something quite powerful. These include: polyphenols, resveratrol, flavonoids, isoflavonoids, terpenoids, and carotenoids.

Phytonutrients have been found to super-charge your immunity, reduce inflammation, help in preventing cancer and slow down the aging process.

Although it is well known that you obtain the bulk of your phytonutrients from vegetables and fruits, it may surprise you that eating grass fed beef also supplies adequate amount of phytonutrients.

One way of imprinting it in your mind about the best phytonutrients is to think of eating the rainbow of fruits and vegetables.

Here are some foods to get you started:

Red Foods:

red apples, beets, red cabbage, cherries, cranberries, pink grapefruit, red grapes, guava or guava juice, red peppers, pomegranates, red potatoes, radishes, raspberries, rhubarb, strawberries, tomatoes or tomato sauce, watermelon.

Orange or Deep Yellow Foods:

apricots, butternut squash, cantaloupe, carrots, corn, grapefruit, lemons, mangoes, nectarines, oranges, papaya, peaches, pears, persimmons, pineapple, pumpkin, sweet potatoes, yellow peppers, yellow squash.

Green Foods:

Artichokes, asparagus, avocados, green apples, green beans, broccoli, bok choy, chard, collard greens, cucumbers, grapes, green onion, honeydew melon, kale, kiwi, lettuce, lime, peas, peppers, spinach, zucchini.

Blue or Purple Foods:

Bilberries, blackberries, black currants, blueberries, eggplant, elderberries, kelp, prunes, purple grapes, raisins.

One caveat to consider is if you are battling diabetes, insulin resistance, belly fat, weight loss issues and gut dysbiosis, it is best to focus on low glycemic fruits (berries) and vegetables.

The optimal amount of vegetables is 12 to 18 servings per day with a 1/2 cup being one serving. Limit your low glycemic fruit (berries) to half cup per day or one piece of fruit per day.

Although it is best to purchase organic vegetables and fruits, I recommend you check out the Environmental Working Group site (ewg.org). This site provides the top 12 fruits and vegetables with the most pesticides. It is called the Dirty Dozen. It also lists the top 15 fruits and vegetables with the least amount of pesticides. It is called the Clean Fifteen.

Dr. Badanek has been and currently is 41 years into active/private practice in the Ocala/Marion County, Florida region. Dr. Badanek practices Natural/Holistic Medicine through the use of Functional/Integrative Models for diagnostic and treatment protocols for the health challenged. Find him online at Dr.Badanek.com and www.alternativewholistic.com, and see what the facility has to offer the sick and health challenged. To schedule an appointment call 352-622-1151