

ALICE STREET MEDICAL CENTRE



15 Alice Street
Atherton QLD 4883
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A/H: 0418 184 070
F: 07 4091 1317

Dr Tony McLellan **Dr Ed Stark**
Dr Chris Earl **Dr Dan Caines**
Dr Robin Leven **Dr Emma Griffiths**
Dr David Simonds **Dr Gene Walker**
Dr Meech Freeman

Our doctors have satisfied the requirements of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and are on the Vocational Register of General Practitioners.

They are family doctors experienced in the broad range of general practice and as well as routine consulting involving all age groups they do:

- Obstetrics, including caesarean sections and ultrasound scans
- Epidurals
- General anaesthetics
- Surgery, including both minor surgery and some major surgery
- Immunisations
- Audiograms
- Skin cancers
- Family planning, including tubal ligations and vasectomies

STAFF

Madeleine Shaw (Practice Manager)

Jen DeBondi, Melissa McDonald, Julie Pink, Sasha Snow, Gabrielle Turner, Lisa Blaney and Lerae Hubner.

NURSING STAFF

Robyn Trimble RN Marea Mead RN
Lauren Caines RN Heidi Baker RN
Anna Montgomery RN

SURGERY HOURS AND SERVICES

CONSULTATIONS are by appointment.

Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm
Saturday 8am to 11am

EMERGENCIES will be dealt with immediately. AFTER HOURS the doctor on call can be contacted by ringing 0418 184 070. HOME VISITS are made where appropriate. Please contact the surgery as soon as possible after 8am to arrange a home visit. NURSING HOME VISITS are made on request.

AFTER HOURS CONTACT DETAILS

Phone numbers are placed on the external door, recorded on our answering service message and noted on all our stationery. These numbers include:

After-hours mobile: 0418 184 070
1300 Health: 1300 432 584
GP Helpline: 1800 022 222
Atherton Hospital: 07 4091 0211
Ambulance emergency service: 000

FREE!!
TAKE ME
HOME



YOUR DOCTOR JANUARY 2020

The healing powers of honey

Honey has been prized around the world since time immemorial for its flavour, as well as its medicinal qualities. Jars of honey dating back to 5,500 years ago were found in a noblewoman's tomb in Georgia, showing how treasured honey has been through the ages.

Honey is delicious

Honey is a sweet substance that bees produce from the nectar of flowering plants. Many types are available depending on the plant type. Honey is loved around the world for its flavour, texture and versatility.

And it's good for you

Honey was used as a healing ointment at least as far back as Ancient Egyptian times, and its popularity as a wound care product has had a recent resurgence. Researchers believe that honey's healing powers come from its antibacterial and anti-inflammatory effects. It also has the ability to nourish surrounding tissue, making it effective for wound healing. Pharmaceutical preparations of honey are now well-evidenced as excellent topical antibiotics with healing properties.

Honey is rich in antioxidants, known for their properties in reducing the risk of cell damage and certain cancers. A growing body of evidence links honey with reduced risk of cardiovascular disease and type two diabetes, due to its action on harmful triglycerides – chemicals linked to insulin resistance and inflammatory disease. Honey is also thought to increase HDL – 'good' cholesterol while decreasing LDL – 'bad' cholesterol.

Honey has been popular for generations as a traditional home remedy for sore throats, hay fever, skin conditions, and coughs and colds. Regular honey is often pasteurised and processed, so raw honey is the best way to maximise potential health benefits.

Drawbacks to honey

Although researchers have found a possible connection between honey and a lower glycaemic index compared to other sugars, consuming honey still means you are consuming sugar, which does affect your blood sugar in some way. Eat only a moderate amount of honey in your diet, or replace processed sugars with honey for a sensible approach.

Current advice from the World Health Organisation is that honey should not be given to infants under twelve months, as in rare cases honey may harbour certain bacteria which, while harmless to older children and adults, can cause serious illness in babies.

In short...

Honey is high in certain substances which are known to promote health and reduce certain diseases. There is compelling evidence for its use in wound treatment, and ongoing research into its potential for reducing the risk of cancer and other serious illness. While honey is high in healthy chemicals, it's also high in sugars – better forms of sugar than most other sweet foods, but still high in calories, so moderation is the key.

WHAT'S INSIDE

YOUR BODY

- Summertime stings
- Robotic surgery
- The liver
- A healthy New Year

YOUR RECIPE

- Honey Apricot Bliss Balls

Take me home to complete our **PUZZLE** – check inside!

The liver

The liver is incredible. It's a large organ which sits at the upper right of the abdomen, just under the lungs and diaphragm. It's the heaviest internal organ, and is dark reddish-brown. It receives blood from two main blood vessels, and it performs at least five hundred distinct essential roles in the human body. It's the only internal organ that is able to regenerate, and can actually regrow back to its normal mass even when up to 75 percent of it is removed or damaged.

What does the liver do for you?

Your liver:

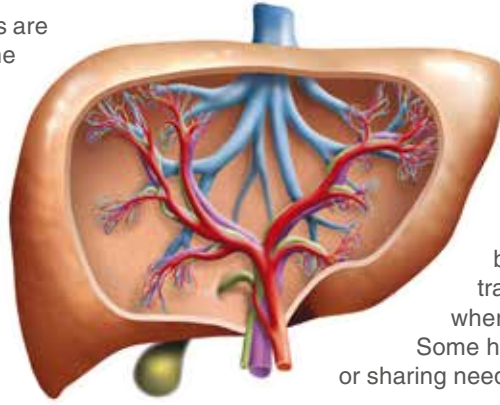
Detoxes – the liver is where most toxins are removed from your blood – it 'cleans' the blood. The liver takes harmful toxins and chemicals which are no longer needed in the body, and breaks them down into a form which can be safely excreted.

Creates protein – in particular, the vital proteins that carry essential chemicals around the body, including hormones, vitamins, iron, and all the factors needed for the human body to form, regulate, and break down blood clots.

Produces digestive enzymes – the liver creates bile, which is stored in the attached gallbladder, and is essential for breaking down dietary fat.

Regulates the amount of glucose released into your bloodstream for energy.

Responds to low blood pressure by releasing a hormone to increase blood pressure.



What can you do for your liver?

A healthy liver is exceptionally good at looking after itself, as well as the rest of the body. However, there are some diseases or conditions which can affect the liver's function. Some problems require medical treatment, but there are steps you can take to help keep your liver healthy:

Follow a healthy diet: the liver is very good at metabolising fat, but large amounts can cause problems like fatty liver disease, closely linked to bad diet and high fat intake.

Limit alcohol: high alcohol intake is also linked to fatty liver disease, as well as cirrhosis – where liver tissue becomes scarred by consistent exposure to the toxins released as it breaks down alcohol.

Avoid exposure to infections known to cause liver inflammation (hepatitis). Hepatitis can be caused by some viral infections. Some of these can be vaccinated against; especially important if you're travelling to high-risk areas, or work in an environment where you might be exposed to blood-borne viruses. Some hepatitis viruses can be spread by unprotected sex, or sharing needles to inject drugs.

Be aware of environmental or occupational toxins – the liver's job is to get harmful chemicals out of your body, but we are exposed to many more toxins than the liver evolved to cope with. In particular, people who may be repeatedly exposed to substances known to be harmful, such as industrial solvents, metals, and some pesticides, should follow stringent health and safety rules at work.

A healthy liver is all you need to detox your blood, and the best way to look after your liver is through eating healthily, maintaining a healthy weight, and exercising regularly. It's just that easy.

WORD SEARCH

K P J Q C K T C N T P O D R I E B Y R J P H B Q M L V S
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- SATURATED
- ANAPHYLAXIS
- HOLISTIC
- ANTIOXIDANT
- VITAMINS
- CELLS
- TOXINS
- DIABETES
- FAT
- ANTIHISTAMINE
- HEPATITIS
- LIVER
- EXERCISE
- ADRENALINE
- PHARMACIST
- HONEY
- ALLERGY
- INSULIN
- PROTEIN
- HEALTH
- DIET
- TELESURGERY
- BILE
- DISEASE
- HEART
- MEDICINE
- SUGAR
- IRON
- FIBRE
- GALLBLADDER

Summertime stings

However much you love the sunshine, the warm weather brings its own particular irritations; late summer is when the bees and wasps are the most active.

Despite the common misconception, bees and wasps are defensive, not aggressive. Usually, just staying calm and still, or walking away from the insect will prevent any incident.

Bees have barbed stingers which remain stuck in the skin, causing the death of the bee and the challenge of removing the stinger without releasing more venom. It should be carefully scraped off the skin, not squeezed. Wasps have retractable stingers so they can sting multiple times when provoked. They will actively defend their nest, and will do so in large numbers.

First Aid

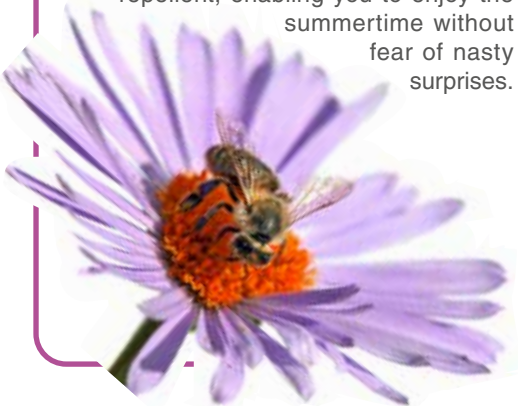
Mild and moderate reactions to wasp stings can be treated at home with a few simple remedies such as cleaning the wound and applying ice. If you need further relief consult your pharmacist for a cream to calm the irritation and itching. Taking an antihistamine tablet can also help, and antihistamine creams are also available, marketed specifically for stings and bites.

In an emergency

Most people only have mild (yet painful) local reactions to wasp or bee venom – pain and swelling just around the site. However, there are people who have significant allergic reactions to insect stings or bites. If the person who has been stung suddenly becomes unwell; or has any reaction involving swelling of the face, lips or tongue, or breathing difficulties, this is a medical emergency and requires immediate assistance.

Some people with a severe allergy to insect venom may experience a reaction called anaphylaxis. They may carry an EpiPen or similar – a pre-prepared needle and syringe containing epinephrine (adrenaline) which is usually injected into the thigh muscle, and should reduce the swelling of the airway. This will buy time, but the affected person still needs emergency treatment, as anaphylaxis will typically last longer than the effects of the injection.

Remember that prevention is better than cure, and the risk of a bite or sting can be reduced by avoiding nests, keeping calm, covering food, and wearing insect repellent; enabling you to enjoy the summertime without fear of nasty surprises.



Tips for summer safety

Many Australians suffer from sun and heat-related stress and illness every year.

Follow some simple precautions to keep safe in the heat:

- **Keep hydrated**
Drink plenty of water - the more you move the more you need
- **Plan your day**
Try to avoid being outdoors between 11am and 4pm
- **Seek shade**
Keep in the shade, or take a sun umbrella
- **Avoid alcohol and caffeine**
They can make dehydration worse.
- **Cool off**
Take a tepid shower or bath, or a dip in the water
- **Eat fresh**
Try eating cold, healthy foods such as salads or fruit
- **Dress cool**
Wear hats, and light, loose natural clothing
- **Sunscreen**
Choose an effective sunscreen, follow the application instructions
- **Check others**
Take care of others who may be vulnerable to heat



Here's to a healthy New Year!

The arrival of another year is often a time when we reflect upon the past, but more importantly, forward to the year ahead. It's a time to consider the changes we want, (or need) to make, and a time to resolve to follow through on those changes.

Many of these resolutions revolve around eating better, losing weight, and improving our health. You can take a holistic approach to a healthy body with these suggestions...

EXERCISE

Getting a regular mix of cardiovascular training (for the heart and lungs), strength training (for the muscles and bones), and flexibility (for the tendons and joints), will keep your body mobile, minimise the risk of many lifestyle diseases, boost your self-esteem, and fill your body with energy. Exercise doesn't have to be a formal activity; you just have to move every day!

EAT 'HEALTHY'

Being healthy is a balancing act between being active and eating sensibly. You can reduce the risk of a range of health problems by maintaining a healthy body weight. Cut back on sugar, alcohol, salt and saturated fats. Eat a wide variety of nutrient-dense food such as vegetables, fruit, whole grains, healthy fats and lean proteins. In addition, ensure you are drinking enough water, as every system in your body depends on hydration.

REST

You might feel "fine" on five hours of sleep, but your body probably disagrees! During sleep you are actively restoring, repairing, and strengthening your body. It's also vital for efficient brain functioning. The average adult requires between seven to nine hours a night.

THINK POSITIVELY

Laughter really is great medicine, especially when it comes to managing stress. Laughter decreases the release of stress hormones, while increasing the release of 'feel-good' endorphins. Laughter has also been shown to boost immune activity in the body.

MAINTAIN BRAIN HEALTH

Living a mentally active life is as important as regular physical exercise. Stimulate your brain with reading, games, and puzzles, or learn a new skill. Try activities that require manual dexterity as well as mental effort, such as drawing, painting, or playing an instrument. Brain-challenging activities can help establish more connections between nerve cells, and may even help the brain generate new cells.

CONNECT WITH OTHERS

Friends are good for your health and wellbeing. Spending time with friends and family helps enhance happiness, lessens sorrows, and increases your sense of belonging and purpose. Helping others fulfils many basic emotional needs for both the helper and recipient.

Now is the best time for a healthy start – happy New Year and happy new you!

Robotic surgery today

Robotic surgery sounds like the stuff of science fiction, but is actually a reality at the cutting edge – literally – of medical research and development. Even before robotic surgery was an option, surgery was trending towards minimally invasive procedures. Minimally invasive surgery generally means better outcomes; as long as there's enough room for the surgeon to manoeuvre instruments and see what they're doing – that's where the robotic arm comes in.

Robotic arms have surgical instruments attached to them and are controlled by the surgeon from a computer near the operating table. A tiny camera can be inserted giving the surgeon a magnified, high-definition, 3D view of the surgical area. Surgeons are able to make smaller incisions and use tiny instruments, causing fewer traumas, reducing the risk of bleeding or other complications, and significantly shortening recovery times. Smaller holes mean smaller scars, less damage to muscles or other tissues, less risk of infection, and potentially quicker surgery.

The cutting edge

Robotic surgery also means more sophisticated instruments; multi-armed machinery able to perform tiny intricate procedures under the full control of the surgical team. And even the instruments themselves are getting cleverer – the iKnife, which analyses tissue as it cuts,

can instantly tell the difference between diseased and healthy cells. There is also the 'mechanical leech', which can be used to apply a set amount of suction and deliver blood thinning medication to improve blood flow and promote healthy tissue after reconstructive surgery.

The future of robotic surgery

When there are instruments that can be controlled remotely, and as reliable connectivity improves around the globe, the logical jump is to 'telesurgery' – remotely operated robotic surgical arms. A video link to an experienced surgeon who controls the robot arms, instruments and internal camera, means that complex surgery may not be restricted by geography. Telesurgery could mean being operated on by the best surgeon for your condition, without the risk of travelling to get to them. It could mean lifesaving, expert surgery in remote regions – just as long as they have the equipment and technical staff. It also may be an answer to the worldwide shortage of surgeons.

From telesurgery, the next leap is to fully autonomous robot surgeons – with increasingly sophisticated machine learning, the potential is there to perform surgery with almost no human involvement. This could reduce many of the risks associated with surgery, but could also raise a natural human aversion to totally automated medical procedures... only time will tell.

JANUARY UPDATE

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Alice Street Medical Centre is ready to go for 2020. We will have 6 doctors working everyday with all our rooms full. One doctor will be doing skin checks and excisions in the Theatre room as per their allocated skin day.

We will endeavour to have you see your regular doctor but do encourage you to book ahead if you need scripts or regular check-ups. If you have an emergency any day, we WILL see you but it may be with the allocated emergency doctor for that day.

NEW REGISTRAR – DR ICHIKAWA

We would like to welcome Dr Ishikari to the team at Alice Street Medical. He has come from the Sunshine Coast University Hospital and is a Registrar Doctor. He likes to play basketball and will be having Wednesday afternoons off.

HEALTH MESSAGES- HOT DOC

Alice Street Medical Centre has stopped sending reminders via the mail and uses a system called Hot Docs Health Messages.

This is a very efficient and 100% secure health message system that is sent via your mobile phone. You will have to use the data on your phone or transfer the link to your computer or i-pad to open the link when you see that you have received a health message.

It will then advise you what it is that you are being sent a reminder about. This could be a Skin Check, pap smear, colonoscopy or any other health reminder. This is NOT an appointment. You will need to phone Alice Street Medical Centre and reception will make an appointment for you.

Please note if you are efficient you may already be booked in for this particular medical reason, be aware that the system can not pick this up and will still send the message.

AUSTRALIA DAY HOLIDAY

Please note that Australia Day Holiday is going to be Monday 27th of January and our surgery will be closed for that day. We hope you enjoy a BBQ or other relaxing activities on that day. The on-call Dr will be available for any afterhours emergency on Mbl: 0418184070.

FINAL FAREWELL

It is official, we will no longer have Dr Dave Simmonds working at Alice Street Medical Centre the practice that he started in 1986. After 40 odd years of service to our community he will be missed so much. He retired in December and he is not doing a Johnny Farnham and making any more comebacks. We wish Dave and Jalna and all his family lots love, happiness and sailing in his retirement.

DR'S ON HOLIDAYS

Dr Chris Earl	01/01/20 – 28/01/20
Dr Emma Griffiths	01/01/20 – 28/01/20
Dr Dan Caines	01/01/20 – 05/01/20
Dr Ed Stark	01/01/20 – 24/01/20

Honey Apricot Bliss Balls

These delicious bliss balls are the perfect energy snack and great for parties and summer picnics.

Makes about 16.

Ingredients

- 1 cup dried apricots, roughly chopped
- ½ cup almonds, roughly chopped
- ½ cup almond meal
- ½ cup shredded coconut
- ¼ cup tahini
- 3 Tbsp honey
- 2-3 Tbsp shredded coconut for rolling

1. Place all ingredients (except coconut for rolling) into a food processor.
2. Process lightly until a chunky mixture forms. Shape into even-sized balls, then roll in the coconut.
3. Store in an airtight container and keep in the fridge.



Disclaimer: The information provided in this newsletter is for educational purposes only, and is not intended as a substitute for sound health care advice. We are not liable for any adverse effects or consequences resulting from the use of any information, suggestions, or procedures presented. Always consult a qualified health care professional in all matters pertaining to your physical, emotional and mental health.

To try the latest **RECIPE** take me home...