



Published by the American Foundation for Better Health

December 2012

Taking a New Look at Exercise

n a poll taken over our web site we found out 98% of you "exercise regularly" but only 20% of you include aerobic activity twice a week or more. Over 40% of you rarely jog or participant in aerobic classes. So we asked 125 of you at an Internet town meeting, "Why not?" and "What do you do?"

The responses to "Why not?" ranged from "it's boring" and "it's too expensive" to "my doctor recommends other forms of exercise for [my condition]". In fact, many of you discovered some qualified negatives to excessive aerobic exercise that make justified your claims. These are posted on the "Exercise" discussion at our web site.

"Aerobic activity is important, but should not be used exclusively. Other forms of exercise, such as stretching, moderate strength building, muscle concentration, and mind and spirit enhancing exercises, should be part of a well balanced, active life." Dr. Hartlett, President of the Vienna School of Medicine. She continued, "strenuous exercise may prevent heart disease, but it can't quarantee weight loss or protect you from 70% of known cancers. It has proven to be a destabilizing force in behavioral disorders, as well. The best way to be healthy is to involve all aspects of your body and lifestyle."

Many of you sought and found alternative combinations of exercise that satisfy both your physical heart and your spiritual heart. Five of the most popular activities are:

- 1. Tai chi
- 2. Walking & hiking
- 3. Golf (without a cart)
- 4. Various martial arts
- 5. Ballroom dancing

Attitude check-up Thoughts are the blood stream of the mind. That's the claim Dr. Gunther Ancara pronounces in his thesis, "Pump Up Your Mind". Dr. Ancara has spent 25 years studying the medical progression of two tribes: one, a native culture in the mountains of Brazil, the other, a small neighborhood in Germany.

Dr. Ancara became personally enthralled with the clinical study when he realized that the thread, which resurfaced

in his study of the two "tribes" was how their individual and group attitudes correlated to overall health. "More than environment or physical conditions," he concluded, "healthy, happy members of each tribe practiced hopeful, mature attitudes."

"Pump Up Your Mind" studies the effects of anger on progressive atherosclerosis, high cholesterol, and coronary heart disease. Hostility seems to release stress hormones into the blood, which elevates low-density cholesterol levels (LDL). This type of cholesterol results in blocked arteries. The other study showed that angry feelings seemed to produce a thickening of the carotid arteries. "Holding on to these emotions gradually drains the body's ability to heal itself." His conclusion: "Think healthy thoughts."







Is an Eastern Diet Right for You?

Americans have the highest and best of everything, including levels of cholesterol, fat, sodium, and preservatives. Years of demanding "fries with that" have put us over the top in obesity, heart disease, and hypertension.

The Journal of Heart Research reports that individuals who regularly ate foods similar to the native Mediterranean diet were 50 to 70 percent less likely to suffer second heart attacks than those who continued eating "meat & potatoes".

A completely new meal plan is not necessary to gain the benefits. Adding side dishes or including ingredients in your regular diet will help you feel better. Try artichokes or spinach for a Vitamin A and C boost; peppers and portobello mushrooms are a great source of potassium; and cardamom and peppermint help the digestion and stimulate the central nervous system.



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