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Sleep and Headaches

by Alberta Health Services

Headaches and sleep issues often go hand in hand, with one condition leading to the other or vice versa. Individuals with headaches are two to eight times more likely to have sleep disorders compared to those without headaches. This connection is especially common in people with chronic headaches, occurring 15 or more days per month, compared to those with episodic headaches, which occur 14 days or less per month.

Research indicates that similar brain regions control both sleep and pain, and that inadequate or excessive sleep can trigger headaches, particularly migraines. Sleep can potentially alleviate a headache attack, while poor sleep may exacerbate an episodic headache into a chronic pattern.

Migraines and cluster headaches often occur during rapid eye movement (REM) sleep and can lead to lower levels of melatonin. Conditions such as sleep apnea and depression are common in individuals who wake up with headaches or migraines and suffer from sleep problems.

Common Sleep Problems for People with Headaches

There are several common sleep problems among people with headaches. Those include:

Insomnia – The most common sleep issue for people with headaches is insomnia. Insomnia occurs when an individual has a difficult time falling asleep and/or staying asleep, waking up too early and not being able to get back to sleep, or not feeling refreshed when waking up.

Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) – The second most common sleep issue for people with headaches is OSA which is when a person stops breathing for short periods while they sleep. This happens because their airway doesn't stay open like it is supposed to. OSA is more common in men than women.

You may have OSA if:

- you snore
- you feel very tired during the day
- someone has noticed that you seem to stop breathing during the night



Some risk factors for OSA are:

- obesity
- long-term use of alcohol, sedatives, muscle relaxants, or medicine with codeine or morphine

When OSA is diagnosed and treated, both OSA and headaches can get better. OSA is usually diagnosed with an overnight sleep study. Many people with sleep apnea must use a continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) machine at night. The CPAP machine helps keep the airway open. If you think you may have sleep apnea, talk to your doctor, who may refer you to a sleep specialist.

Other breathing problems – Other breathing problems at night such as snoring and upper airway resistance syndrome (UARS) have also been linked to headaches. With UARS, the airway narrows, and the lungs and diaphragm have to work harder. If UARS isn't treated, it may turn into sleep apnea. Treatments for UARS include mouth splints, surgery, weight loss, and sleeping on the side instead of the back.

Managing Your Headache Could Affect Your Sleep

Headache researchers Ong and Park say other factors affect sleep according to the popular Biobehavioural Model. The model says that a person may already have issues (predisposing factors) like anxiety which, when combined with stress or daily hassles (precipitating factors), may cause short-term sleep problems. The person may then try to find short-term ways to cope (e.g., take naps, take sleep medicine at night, or use caffeine during the day). These ways of coping may become factors themselves (perpetuating factors), which can make sleep problems continue. This model may have special meaning for people with headaches. This is because some perpetuating factors are common ways to manage headaches, like:

- using caffeine to stop a headache
- napping during the day to sleep off a headache

If people aren't careful, regular use of these strategies might lead to chronic sleep and chronic headache problems. A better solution is to learn ways to manage stress and to use sleep hygiene strategies.

Ways to Improve Sleep and Headaches

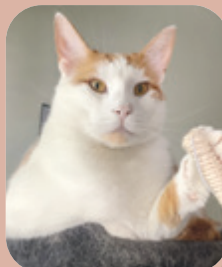
There are many ways to improve your sleep patterns and, potentially, alleviate headaches caused by sleep issues.

Some examples include:

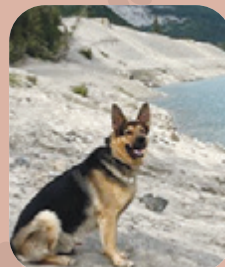
- Using a headache diary to find your triggers. Notice any patterns that occur in correlation to your sleep or how rested you feel.
- Keep regular sleep patterns. Sleeping too much or too little can trigger headaches. If you do get a headache when your sleep pattern has changed, this may be a trigger that you can control.
- Manage stress. Exercise and eat nourishing food on a regular schedule.
- Seek treatment if you have depression or anxiety, which can both contribute to poor quality of sleep and headaches.
- Practice good posture to reduce neck strain. Reduce eye strain from computers at work and at home. Be mindful of jaw clenching, which can cause muscle tension in your face.

Visit 'Headache Management: Sleep Strategies' or talk to your healthcare provider for more information on the correlation between headaches and sleep.

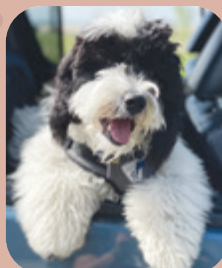
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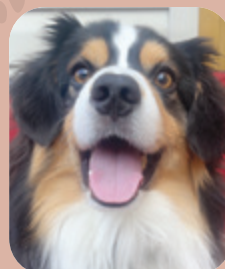
Harry, Bridgeland



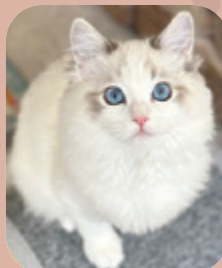
Pikko, Hillhurst Sunnyside



Riley, Kensington



Sawyer, Beddington



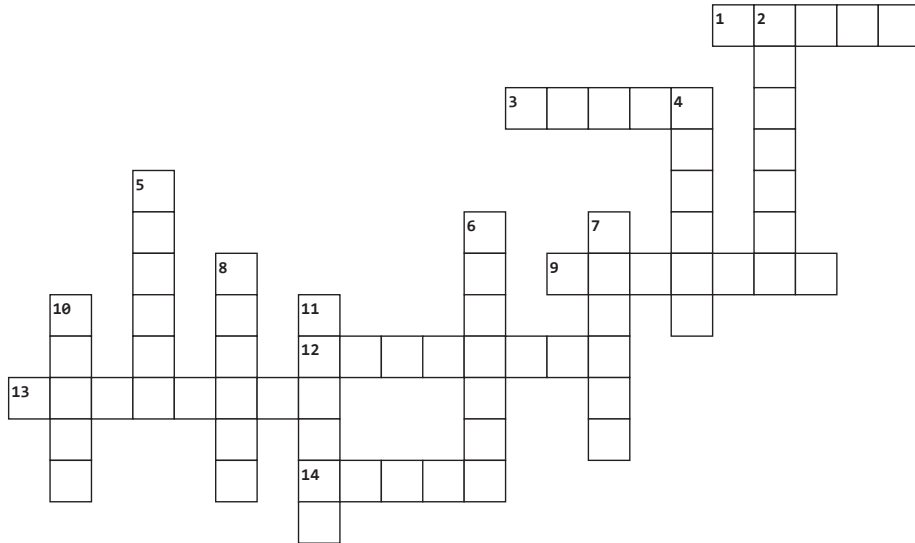
Snowbelle,
Discovery Ridge



Tilly, Deer Run

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August Crossword



Across

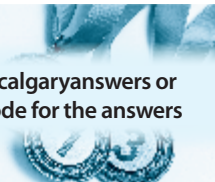
- One of two birth flowers for August, this flower symbolizes remembrance and is often used to honour veterans who have passed away in war.
- On August 28, 1963, in Washington D.C., civil rights activist and reverend, Martin Luther King Jr. gave his inspiring "I Have a _____" speech.
- This yellowish-green gemstone is one of three birthstones for August, the others being the spinel and sardonyx.
- On the first Monday in August, Albertans celebrate _____ Day, which recognizes the multicultural landscape of the province.
- In August of 1896, George Carmack was the first to find gold at Bonanza Creek, Yukon, sparking the _____ Gold Rush.
- The Summer Olympics takes place in which French city from July 26 to August 11 this year?

Down

- Canadian filmmaker James Cameron, famous for movies such as *Titanic*, *Avatar*, and *The Terminator*, was born on August 16, 1954, in Kapuskasing, _____.
- The fantasy novel *A Game of Thrones*, written by George R.R. _____, was first published in August of 1996.
- August is a popular name for boys in this Scandinavian country.
- On August 8, 1969, The _____, took to the street to take the cover photo for their album *Abbey Road* which featured songs such as "Here Comes the Sun", "Come Together", and "Octopus's Garden".
- The Perseid _____ shower is one of the best shooting stars displays which Canadians can view on the eve of August 12 this year.
- The saying "The Dog Days of Summer" is linked to the rising of the star called _____, also known as the Dog Star.
- Canadian actress, Evangeline _____, famous for her role as Kate Austen in the drama series *Lost*, was born on August 3, 1979, in Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta.
- Michael _____ set the record for the most gold medals by an athlete in a single Olympic Games in Beijing, 2008.



Visit bit.ly/mycalgaryanswers or scan the QR code for the answers



Celebrate, Elevate, and Enjoy: Nutrition for Older Adults

by Alberta Health Services

Let's celebrate getting older and aging healthfully. There are many aspects of aging that are out of our control, but food and nutrition research indicate there are many things that can be helped.

If you are, or if you know someone who is 65 years or older and lives independently or with others, this article may interest you. It will cover things we do in our life that can give us the best chance of maintaining good nutrition and health.

Weight loss is often seen as a positive topic that is promoted on social media and with family and friends. There are some medical conditions where weight loss is helpful in prevention or management like in Type 2 diabetes and fatty liver disease, but it can present a risk for older adults. When we lose weight, we don't just lose fat. We also lose muscle. People can start to lose muscle as early as age 30, but muscle loss increases quickly after age 70, independent of weight loss. Muscle is hard to regain in older adults. Generally, weight loss is not recommended in older adults. Maintaining weight and muscle is important to help you maintain your strength.

The Importance of Adding in Protein to Your Diet

Protein is a nutrient that helps you to keep the muscle you have. Many seniors do not get enough protein. Since your body can't store protein in your body, you need to eat higher protein foods, at least three times each day – every day – to maintain the muscle you have.

Try to consume protein foods at each meal. Here are some practical ways you can get more protein at meals and snacks:

- Add cheese, nut butter, or beans to toast.
- Make an omelet for breakfast.
- Mix one to two tablespoons of skim or whole milk powder or a scoop of protein powder into your cereal or yogurt.
- Add beans or meat (example wild game or fish) to pasta or vegetable dishes.
- Try adding a plant-based protein, like chickpea falafel or tofu to a stir-fry.



- Choose nuts, boiled eggs, Greek yogurt, or cottage cheese as a snack.

Elevate Your Eating Experience

Enjoyment of eating and quality of life are important for good health. If older adults have a health condition, such as diabetes or health disease, they may have been told to eat a special diet. If your heart healthy, low sodium, or diet for diabetes is affecting your appetite, it is important to talk to your healthcare team about making some changes to make your diet less restrictive.

Other ways to elevate the eating experience is to make the dining environment pleasant. Research shows that eating with others (like at work or with family, friends, or neighbours) makes it more likely to eat more food. Mealtime can be a time for nourishment and socializing. One way that can make having a meal together fun is hosting a potluck.

Visit ahs.ca and search 'Shift to Healthy Eating at Work' to find great potluck ideas for work or any gathering.

Emphasizing enjoyable, social mealtimes as well as nutritious foods are ways to age healthfully to maintain strength and vitality.

Mix It Up!

Adding activity into your day shouldn't feel like a chore or a punishment. It should be fun! Choose activities that you enjoy and mix it up with different types of exercise.

The goal of aerobic fitness is to increase the amount of oxygen that goes to the heart and muscles which allows them to work longer.

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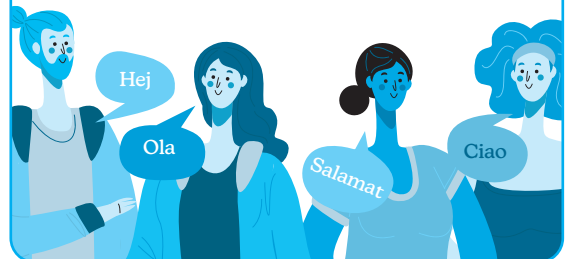
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Word of The Month

Mellifluous: adjective (muh-lif-loo-uhs)

Sweet or smooth sounding, as in a voice or string of words.

She believed Spanish to be the most mellifluous language in the world.



7					9			4
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FOR THE SOLUTION



Guess The Drink!

1. On August 28, 1898, Caleb Bradham invented this sweet, carbonated drink originally called "Brad's Drink" which was used to relieve dyspepsia (indigestion).
2. In 1969, Walter Chell invented this drink in Calgary which is typically made from Clamato juice, Worcestershire sauce, spices, and vodka.
3. This non-alcoholic drink is named after an iconic 1930s Hollywood child actress.
4. This drink has been around for thousands of years. Legend has it that in 2737 BC, Chinese emperor Shen Nung discovered it while sitting underneath a tree with boiling water.
5. This sparkling wine is named after the region from which it is produced.
6. This caffeinated energy drink from Austria "gives you wings".



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international Left-Handers Day



August 13 is a special day for those who have the unique distinction of being left-handed. Approximately 10% of the global population are left-handed. But don't fret, left-handers! Some influential people who share your uniqueness include Prince William, Barack Obama, Justin Bieber, Oprah Winfrey, and Jennifer Lawrence, just to name a few.

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April	24	2	5	\$1,495,000	\$1,490,000
March	24	7	6	\$1,747,500	\$1,730,000
February	24	7	5	\$1,595,000	\$1,550,000
January	24	10	2	\$1,887,450	\$1,872,500
December	23	1	2	\$949,300	\$914,750
November	23	3	2	\$1,224,000	\$1,190,000
October	23	2	2	\$1,286,500	\$1,276,500
September	23	8	2	\$1,444,950	\$1,430,500
August	23	3	1	\$2,270,000	\$2,150,000
July	23	3	7	\$1,649,000	\$1,600,000

To view more detailed information that comprise the above
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