



Keeping regular in pregnancy - a practical approach to keeping things moving.

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Why Are We Here?

Constipation & Haemorrhoids are two of the most common problems experienced by pregnant women

- Incidence increases dramatically
- 40% women reported to become constipated
- > 320,000 women every year
- & 25-35% develop haemorrhoids



Who Cares?

- Women
 - Constipation & haemorrhoids both incredibly uncomfortable & affect quality of life
- Health Care Professionals should care:
 - Patient wellbeing
 - Straining can damage pelvic floor musculature



Back to Basics - what is Fibre?

Dietary fibre is the edible parts of plants that are resistant to digestion and absorption in the human small intestine. Dietary fibres promote beneficial physiologic effects including laxation, and helping to lower blood cholesterol and/or blood glucose levels.

(ref. American Association Cereal Chemists)

Two main types:

- Soluble fibres dissolve in water to form a gel
 - Fermented by gut bacteria
 - Helpful for cholesterol & blood sugar control
 - Found in legumes, oats, some fruits & vegetables
- Insoluble Fibres = bulk forming
 - Absorb water and swell to form soft mass
 - Increase faecal mass & soften stools easing defaecation
 - Speed transit of food and waste materials through digest tract
 - Found in cereals e.g. wheat bran, nuts & seeds, some fruits & vegetables, esp. skins

Constipation

- Difficult to define as means different things to different people
 - Bowel habits vary a lot
 - People have different ideas about what's normal.
 - A change from your regular pattern of bowel movements is often the best way of telling if you're constipated
 - Fibre intakes in the UK are low and mild constipation is common and often unrecognised

Are you finding it more difficult or uncomfortable to pass stools?

Difficulties with Diagnostic Criteria

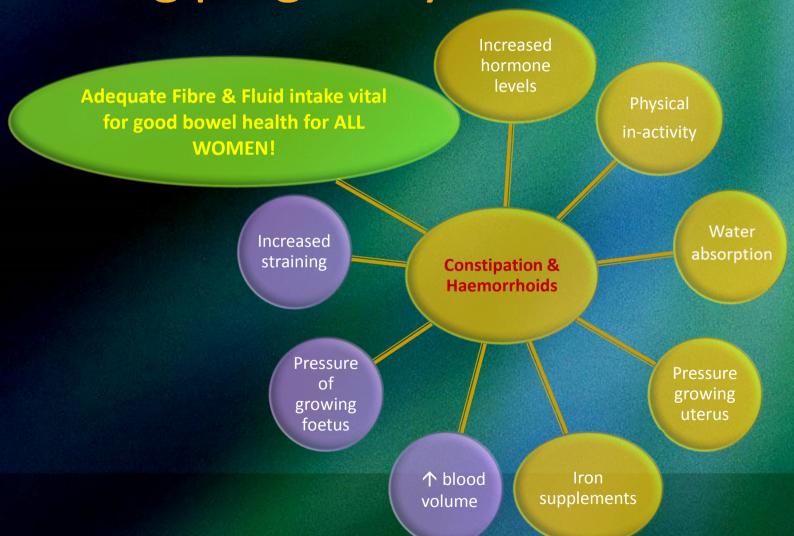
Usually use Rome III criteria

However: diagnosis made on symptoms over previous 3 months with symptom onset at least 6 months prior to diagnosis - therefore difficult to apply in relation to sudden onset in pregnancy

Normal diagnostic criteria include two or more of the following:*

- Straining during at least 25% of defecations
- Lumpy or hard stools in at least 25% of defecations
- Sensation of incomplete evacuation for at least 25% of defecations
- Sensation of anorectal obstruction/blockage for at least 25% of defecations
- Manual manoeuvres to facilitate at least 25% of defecations (e.g., digital
- evacuation, support of the pelvic floor)
- Fewer than three defecations per week
- Loose stools are rarely present without the use of laxatives
- Insufficient criteria for irritable bowel syndrome

Why does constipation increase during pregnancy?



Other Potential Benefits of High Fibre Diet in Pregnancy

- Satiety prevent excess weight gain
- - incidence gestational diabetes
 - insulin requirement in Type 1 Diabetes

1. PREVENT with good advice



2. & TREAT with good advice

Practice Tip # 1: advise early to prevent

Incidence of Constipation by trimester

	Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3	Post-birth
UK	35%	39%	21%	17%
Spain	30%	19%	22%	25%
USA	24%	26%	16%	24%

- Problem throughout the whole of pregnancy
- Advise on prevention (wheat bran & fluids) at first contact

Practice Tip #2: wheat bran

- NICE GUIDELINES
 Antenatal care for uncomplicated pregnancies. Clinical Guideline 62 (2016)
 - 1.4.3 Constipation
 Women who present with constipation in pregnancy should be offered information regarding diet modification, such as bran or wheat fibre supplementation.
 - 1.4.4 Haemorrhoids In the absence of evidence of the effectiveness of treatments for haemorrhoids in pregnancy, women should be offered information concerning diet modification. If clinical symptoms remain troublesome, standard haemorrhoid creams should be considered.

N.B Speed of effect – significant effects within 3-5 days of consumption among non-pregnant women

Why wheat bran?

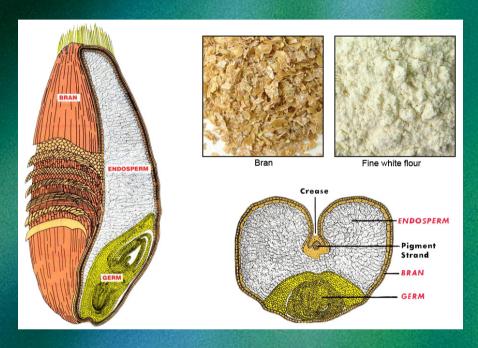
Wheat bran is one of the most effective fibres for stool bulking

Fibre	Increase in grams		
Wheat	5.4 g		
Fruits and Vegetables	4.7 g		
Psyllium	4.0 g		
Cellulose	3.5 g		
Oats	3.4 g		
Corn	3.3 g		
Legumes	2.2 g		
Pectin	1.2 g		

Two European Health Claims

 Wheat bran fibre contributes to an increase in faecal bulk

 Wheat bran fibre contributes to a reduction in intestinal transit time



Based on 10g wheat bran fibre daily

EU Register of nutrition and health claims made on foods http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/labelling_nutrition/claims/register/public/?event=register.home

Easy ways to boost wheat bran













How much total fibre is recommended?

- New recommendation (2015) is for 30g fibre/day
 - No increase for pregnancy
- Average female intake ~ 17g/day
- Need to increase fibre intake by around 13g/day
- Fluids no UK rec's but EU recommend 2.3I/day for pregnancy & 2.7I/day for lactation

Practice Tip #3: Don't assume foods are high in fibre

- Don't be fooled by labels
- Wholegrain does not automatically equate to fibre
- Look for:
 - wheat bran
 - source fibre (≥3g/100g)
 - high fibre (≥6g /100g)
- Read nutrition panel to check fibre per portion



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OUR NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION								
Typical value per 100g Per 40g serving								
ENERGY	1400 kJ	334 kcal	560 kJ	134 kcal				
FAT	3.5 g		1.4 g					
of which saturates	0.7 g		0.3 g					
CARBOHYDRATE	48 g		19 g					
of which sugars	18	18 g		7.2 9				
FIBRE	27 g		11 g					
PROTEIN	149		5.6 9					
SALT	0.95 g		0.38 g					
VITAMINS:		(% NRV)		(% NRV)				
VITAMIN D	3.2 µg	(63)	1.3 µg	(25)				
THIAMIN (B1)	0.69 mg	(63)	0.28 mg	(25)				
RIBOFLAVIN (B2)	0.88 mg	(63)	0.35 mg	(25)				
NIACIN	10 mg	(63)	4.0 mg					
VITAMIN B6	0.88 mg	(63)	0.35 mg	(25)				
FOLIC ACID	250 µg	(125)	100 µg	(50)				
VITAMIN B12	1.6 µg	(63)	0.63 µg	(25)				
MINERALS:								
IRON	8.8 mg	(63)	3.5 mg	(25)				
(%)=% Nutrient Reference Value.								

Practice Tip #4 Breakfast and snacks are easy times to boost fibre



Choose a cereal rich in wheat bran or high in fibre





Switch to high fibre snacks Recipes: www.allbran.co.uk

What does 30g fibre/day look like?

Breakfast: 2 slices granary toast with peanut butter. 1 orange.

Lunch: Wholewheat pasta salad with feta, cooked chicken & grilled vegetables. 4 dried apricots.

Dinner: Baked salmon, New potatoes (in skins), broccoli & kale. Fresh fruit salad.

Snack: Smoothie made with berry fruits (fresh or frozen & yoghurt).

Breakfast: Kellogg's Bran Flakes & semi skimmed milk + 1 chopped banana.

Lunch: Wholemeal pitta with tuna & sweetcorn & mixed side salad. 1 pear.

Dinner: Chilli con carne with brown rice. High fibre Apple Crumble (see allbran.co.uk).

Snack: 25g plain popcorn.

Breakfast: 1 bowl All-Bran Fruit & Nut Muesli with semi skimmed milk. 1 orange.

Lunch: Wholewheat pasta salad with pesto, cooked chicken & grilled vegetables. 2 rye crispbread with low fat soft cheese.

Dinner: Chicken Fajita (chicken, Peppers, Onions & spices) with 2 wholemeal tortilla. Fresh fruit salad.

Snack: Smoothie made with berry fruits (fresh or frozen & yoghurt).

Breakfast: Kellogg's All-Bran Golden Crunch & semi skimmed milk + 1 chopped banana.

Lunch: Jacket potato & baked beans (remember to eat the skin). 1 apple.

Dinner: Spaghetti bolognaise served with wholewheat spaghetti & a side salad.

Snack: All-Bran Chocolate & Banana Muffin & small bunch of grapes.

Simple steps to boost fibre

Boost fibre intake by at least 10g daily

- 1. Start each day with a high fibre breakfast cereal (i.e. one with at least 6g fibre per 100g)
- Reinforce the need to eat at least 5 servings of fruits and vegetables daily



- 3. Encourage a switch to wholemeal breads and pasta
- Add dried fruits, nuts and/or seeds to breakfast cereals, flapjacks or crumbles, or sprinkle over yoghurt



- Cook potatoes and root vegetables in skins and eat these skin intact
- Try brown/wholegrain rice for more fibre and a nuttier taste



- Encourage consumption of beans and pulses e.g. baked beans, chick peas, lentils etc
- Check fluid intake is adequate around 2 litres/day is needed for good health



RCM accredited CPD module



The Science of Dietary Fibre and Digestive Health for Midwives

£15

The Science of Dietary
Fibre and Digestive
Health – for Midwives

More info >

- Find on British Nutrition Foundation website
- RCM accreditation
- Access free of charge from Kellogg Alliance Partner page on RCM website

Thank You For Listening!

Info & Resources on RCM Alliance partner – Kellogg webpage www.rcm.org.uk/Kellogg's-all-bran

- Info & Resources on www.kelloggsnutrition.com
- For recipes see www.allbran.co.uk