

STRESS and your Health

Chronic stress puts your health at risk

Your body is hard-wired to react to stress in ways meant to protect you against threats from predators and other aggressors. Such threats are rare today, but that doesn't mean that life is free of stress.

On the contrary, you undoubtedly face multiple demands each day, such as shouldering a huge workload, making ends meet and taking care of your family. Your body treats these so-called minor hassles as threats. As a result you may feel as if you're constantly under assault. But you can fight back. You don't have to let stress control your life.

Understanding the natural stress response

When you encounter a perceived threat — a large dog barks at you during your morning walk, for instance — your hypothalamus, a tiny region at the base of your brain, sets off an alarm system in your body. Through a combination of nerve and hormonal signals, this system prompts your adrenal glands, located atop your kidneys, to release a surge of hormones, including adrenaline and cortisol.

Adrenaline increases your heart rate, elevates your blood pressure and boosts energy supplies. Cortisol, the primary stress hormone, increases sugars (glucose) in the bloodstream, enhances your brain's use of glucose and increases the availability of substances that repair tissues.

Cortisol also curbs functions that would be nonessential or detrimental in a fight-or-flight situation. It alters immune system responses and suppresses the digestive system, the reproductive system and growth processes. This complex natural alarm system also communicates with regions of your brain that control mood, motivation and fear.

When the natural stress response goes haywire

The body's stress-response system is usually self-limiting. Once a perceived threat has passed, hormone levels return to normal. As adrenaline and cortisol levels drop, your heart rate and blood pressure return to baseline levels, and other systems resume their regular activities.

But when stressors are always present and you constantly feel under attack, that fight-or-flight reaction stays turned on.

The long-term activation of the stress-response system — and the subsequent overexposure to cortisol and other stress hormones — can disrupt almost all your body's processes. This puts you at increased risk of numerous health problems, including:

- Anxiety
- Depression
- Digestive problems
- Heart disease
- Sleep problems
- Weight gain
- Memory and concentration impairment

That's why it's so important to learn healthy ways to cope with the stressors in your life.



Why you react to life stressors the way you do

Your reaction to a potentially stressful event is different from anyone else's. How you react to stressors in your life is affected by such factors as:

- **Genetics.** The genes that control the stress response keep most people on a fairly even keel, only occasionally priming the body for fight or flight. Overactive or underactive stress responses may stem from slight differences in these genes.
- **Life experiences.** Strong stress reactions sometimes can be traced to traumatic events. People who suffered neglect or abuse as children tend to be particularly vulnerable to stress. The same is true of victims of violent crime, airplane crash survivors, military personnel, police officers and firefighters.

Signs and symptoms of stress overload

The following table lists some of the common warning signs and symptoms of stress. The more signs and symptoms you notice in yourself, the closer you may be to stress overload.

Stress Warning Signs and Symptoms	
Cognitive Symptoms	Emotional Symptoms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Memory problems ▪ Inability to concentrate ▪ Poor judgment ▪ Seeing only the negative ▪ Anxious or racing thoughts ▪ Constant worrying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Moodiness ▪ Irritability or short temper ▪ Agitation, inability to relax ▪ Feeling overwhelmed ▪ Sense of loneliness and isolation ▪ Depression or general unhappiness
Physical Symptoms	Behavioral Symptoms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aches and pains ▪ Diarrhea or constipation ▪ Nausea, dizziness ▪ Chest pain, rapid heartbeat ▪ Loss of sex drive ▪ Frequent colds ▪ Skin conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eating more or less ▪ Sleeping too much or too little ▪ Isolating yourself from others ▪ Procrastinating or neglecting responsibilities ▪ Using alcohol, cigarettes, or drugs to relax ▪ Nervous habits (e.g. nail biting, pacing)

Learning to react to life stressors in a healthy way

Stressful events are a fact of life. And you may not be able to change your current situation. But you can take steps to manage the impact these events have on you.

You can learn to identify what stresses you and how to take care of yourself physically and emotionally in the face of stressful situations.

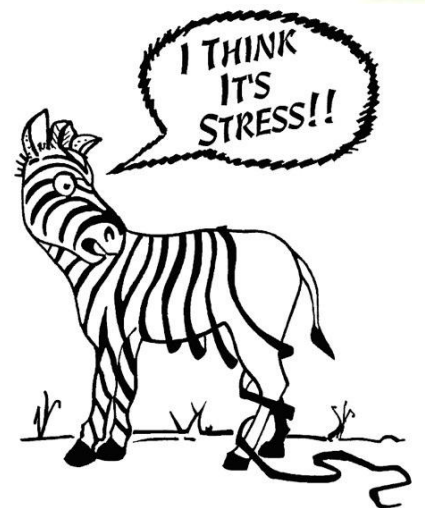
Stress management strategies include:

- Eating a healthy diet and getting regular exercise and plenty of sleep
- Practicing relaxation techniques or learning to meditate
- Fostering healthy friendships
- Having a sense of humor
- Seeking professional assistance when needed

How we can assist:

Using BICOM Bioresonance Therapy, diet modification, lifestyle advice, supplementation and Herbal Medicine (if needed):

- we get the body back into balance
- identify and eliminate stressors and strains inside the body
- support and strengthen the adrenals and the nervous system naturally
- build immunity
- clear emotional blocks
- address digestive issues and vitality
- address any signs and symptoms directly/ indirectly related to stress



If you are feeling STRESSED or fatigued, make an appointment with us to get the best possible treatment.