

DARWIN CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC

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CHIROPRACTOR

Dr Duncan Muir
B.Sc., M.Chiro

CLINIC STAFF

Dagmar Hackett (Practice Manager)

CLINIC HOURS AND SERVICES

Consultations are by appointment. We try very hard to adhere to appointments, however the nature of chiropractic is that emergencies and circumstances sometimes mean we run behind time.

Please feel free to call and check.

Dr Duncan Muir practises as follows

Monday	8.00 am – 5.15 pm
Tuesday	8.00 am – 5.15 pm
Wednesday	8.00 am – 12.00 noon
Thursday	8.00 am – 5.15 pm
Friday	8.00 am – 5.15 pm
Saturday	9.00 am – 12 noon

Your health is our concern but your responsibility. If you are unable to keep your appointment, we appreciate as much notice as possible so that other patients can be offered your time.

FEES

Our fees are in accordance with recommended association and governing body guidelines. If you have any questions about fees or difficulty with payments please do not hesitate to discuss the matter with the chiropractor.

OUR PRACTICE

This is a traditional family practice committed to providing professional, friendly and comprehensive care to all. Our chiropractor is experienced in a broad range of problems

YOUR CHIROPRACTOR MAY/JUNE 2020



Stand up for your health!

Do you spend too much time sitting? Are endless hours consumed by the daily commute, being seated at work, and watching your favourite television series?

Engaging in regular, moderate or vigorous exercise is an important health recommendation, but new research suggests that it's not enough. Constant sedentary behaviour — in other words, sitting too much — is a risk factor for serious disease.

Do you ever think you're too busy to exercise? Leading an inactive lifestyle is common, with work pressures and busy calendars often preventing us from doing regular exercise. Many years ago when survival depended on our ability to farm and hunt for food, strong, powerful and active bodies were essential. Nowadays, adults in Western countries spend approximately nine to eleven hours a day sitting, so the muscles have little reason to move and strengthen. As the saying goes, "use it or lose it."

Lack of movement also leads to an elevated risk of some diseases. When we move less, our arteries can become stiff, which contributes to the development of cardiovascular disease. Lack of physical activity also affects the hormone insulin, making a steady blood sugar level difficult to maintain, which can act as a precursor to diabetes. Various cancers may be attributable to spending more than three hours each day stationary, but the reasons for this are not yet clear, and research is ongoing.

More recent understanding of these health issues has given rise to the alarming quote, "Sitting is the new smoking."

Not only does inactivity bring an increased risk of serious illness, but it also affects our weight, muscles, posture and spine.

When we are sitting, our hip muscles remain in a shortened position, pulling on the back. This can alter the spinal curves and posture, leading to strain and stress through the discs and joints of the spine. These changes extend upward which can result in back, neck and shoulder pain.

The good news

To put it simply, the longer we sit the more our health is at risk; but the good news is we can easily prevent this – just move more! Taking simple steps to increase the frequency of movement makes a significant difference. Break up sedentary periods. Stand every 20 to 30 minutes for several minutes of motion. Use a sit-stand desk, or switch your seat for an exercise ball. Structured, regular exercise is an important step, but incidental activity is also essential.

Being physically active will loosen tight muscles, improve your posture, calm physical distress, and reduce your risk of disease. A little movement, often, can lead to a longer, healthier life. Ask your chiropractor for tailored advice on the type of exercise and care that best suits your needs.

WHAT'S INSIDE



**CHILDREN'S
HEALTH**



**ROAST PUMPKIN &
CHICKPEA SALAD**



**CORE
MUSCLES**



**BREATHE IN
THE BENEFITS**

Roast pumpkin and chickpea salad

Toasted nuts and seeds, and a lemony dressing add crunch and flavour to this tasty salad.

INGREDIENTS

700g butternut pumpkin, peeled, chopped into 2-3cm chunks
400g can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
2 tsp olive oil
2 tsp grated lemon rind
¼ cup pistachios
2 Tbsp pumpkin seeds
1 small red onion, sliced thinly

150g baby spinach leaves
100g goat feta, crumbled
2 Tbsp chopped parsley

Lemon and honey dressing

1 Tbsp olive oil
3 Tbsp lemon juice
1 tsp honey

Combine dressing ingredients in a jar with a pinch of salt and shake well.

METHOD

Preheat oven to 220°C.

Combine pumpkin and chickpeas with oil and lemon rind, season. Arrange on a lined baking tray. Roast for approx. 20 minutes until golden and tender. Add nuts and pumpkin seeds for last two minutes. In a large bowl combine roasted ingredients and toss gently with onion, spinach leaves and dressing. Serve salad sprinkled with feta and parsley.



Your core: the key to movement and spinal health

We often hear about the importance of strong core muscles. But what are they really, what do they do, and how do they help support everyday activities and benefit spinal health?

The core is made of numerous muscles that combine to brace the trunk and provide strength and motion. They act as a physical foundation and stabilising force from which all movement can safely occur. Imagine if the footing of your home was faulty — the walls would crack, the doors would jam, and the roof might cave in. In the body, an imbalanced core can trigger strain on joints, tissues and bones, and increase pain, dysfunction and spinal injury.

The rectus abdominus, transversus abdominus and obliques, which together connect the lower rib cage to the pelvis, form the abdominal component. The paraspinal

and gluteal muscles sit at the back and support the spine, pelvis and hips. The diaphragm forms the roof, and the pelvic floor forms, well, the floor. Together, these act as a powerhouse of sturdiness, allowing controlled, fluid movement and efficient energy use so your body can work well.

By acting as a corset, the core allows us to bend, lift, and reach without falling down like a deck of cards. Any physical activities you do — from standing, walking, housework, participating in sport, to maintaining an ideal posture — all rely on a strong, healthy core. That's why we struggle when our core is weak.

Often people who consult with a chiropractor have diminished core performance. Targeted regular exercises and activities such as yoga and Pilates help to improve core function. Ask your chiropractor which exercises are the most beneficial for you.

Magnificent magnesium!

Magnesium is an elemental metal which is essential for life and found in every cell of our bodies.

It's constantly taking part in hundreds of the complex chemical reactions needed to run a healthy body. It helps the body use energy, transmit messages, move muscles, and much more.

Without enough magnesium we can become extremely sick, and a severe deficiency is a medical emergency. Even slightly reduced magnesium levels can affect the human body in a huge variety of ways; however magnesium deficiency is rare in healthy individuals eating a balanced diet.

Muscles

Magnesium is also essential for muscle function, and some people find that adding magnesium salts to a hot bath helps relieve muscle cramps or restless legs. However it's not just skeletal muscle that is affected by magnesium levels; the muscle cells of the heart require magnesium both for healthy movement, and for conduction of the electrical impulses that make the heart beat.

Bones

Magnesium is essential for the health of the skeleton; and around 60 percent of the magnesium in the human body is stored in the bones. It's required for the proper metabolism and use of calcium and vitamin D in the body, helping create and maintain healthy bone structures.

Heart health

Magnesium is recommended for all-round heart health too; optimal magnesium intake is linked to lower blood pressure and healthier coronary arteries.

Many supplements are available, but it is more beneficial to your health to obtain vitamins and minerals through food. Also, excess intake from supplements can cause serious illness or interact with some prescription medications.

Magnesium-rich foods include nuts and seeds, green leafy vegetables, and legumes such as beans. Some prepared foods like breakfast cereals or plant milks also come fortified with magnesium. Adding a sprinkling of roasted nuts or seeds to a meal is a delicious and easy way to get more magnesium into your diet.

word search

- ABDOMEN HEART
- ANXIETY HIPS
- CALCIUM IMBALANCE
- CELL INSULIN
- CHRONIC MAGNESIUM
- CORE METABOLISM
- CORONARY OBESITY
- DIABETES OXYGEN
- DIAPHRAGM PAIN
- DYSFUNCTION PELVIS
- ENERGY POSTURE
- ERGONOMIC SEDENTARY
- FUNCTION SPINE

S C I N O R H C I A X P D U I X O B L U G R J
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The benefits of better breathing

We breathe automatically from birth to death, but rarely stop to consider if we are actually doing it correctly. With upwards of 17,000 breaths per day, correct technique is essential for optimum health.

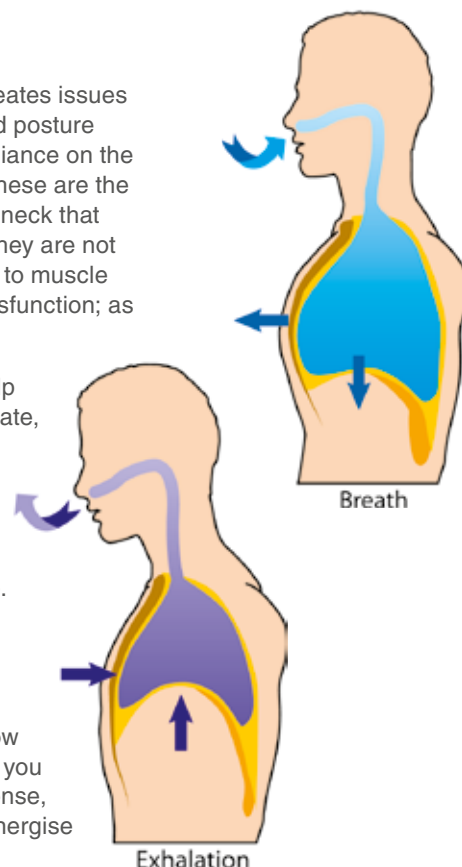
When you inhale deeply, your diaphragm contracts and squashes the contents of your abdomen. This causes your belly to naturally bulge, known as abdominal breathing. On breathing out, your rib cage compresses your lungs and forces air out, and your belly flattens. This rhythmical cycle of contraction and relaxation is essential for breathing and staying well. So how do you know if you're doing it correctly?

Stop where you are. Sit or stand with your spine straight and your eyes looking forward. Take a deep breath in, and breathe out. Next, hunch the middle of your back and let your shoulders and head slump forward. Now take a deep breath in. Notice the difference? When you slump, your breathing will become shallow, making it impossible to fill your lungs with oxygen and release carbon dioxide properly. When your spine is straight, your rib cage expands and your lungs have adequate space to work fully.

The wrong breathing pattern also creates issues in other parts of the body. A hunched posture and shallow breathing can trigger reliance on the secondary muscles of respiration. These are the muscles around your shoulders and neck that can help you breathe, even though they are not designed for this task. This can lead to muscle tightness, pain, postural and joint dysfunction; as well as affect your overall health.

Correct abdominal breathing can help lower blood pressure, reduce heart rate, relax muscles, decrease stress, and increase energy levels. Fortunately, we can easily control and improve our breathing.

To breathe well, maintain a tall spine. Focus on deep, slow, balanced and controlled breathing through the nose. It should feel easy, and your breath should be silent. Allow ample movement of your chest and note how your abdomen moves in and out. As you do, you'll trigger the relaxation response, reduce anxiety, and help heal and energise your mind and body.



Magnesium is involved in over 300 biochemical reactions in the human body...

Pumpkin seeds are a great source of magnesium.

The toll of electronic devices on our children's health

Our children are faced with a widening range of health issues as they become more sedentary and device orientated. Whether it's muscle or joint pain, headaches, postural distortions, or obesity—the toll on their wellbeing can be significant.

Studies have shown that a staggering 20% to 35% of children and adolescents experience chronic pain. Ongoing physical discomfort can be triggered by an injury or illness, or the cause may remain undiagnosed. Sadly, regularly experiencing pain can reach its uncomfortable tentacles into every aspect of a child's life. It can affect their school performance, social engagement, and sleep; eventually putting their physical and mental health at risk.

Along with chronic pain, weight is a major health concern for the younger generation. An Australian government report stated that one-quarter of Australian children and adolescents are overweight or obese. In the short-term, carrying excess weight may diminish quality of life. Long-term, obese children and adolescents face a higher risk of developing cardiovascular disease, diabetes, osteoarthritis and certain cancers as adults.

The current guidelines for children include 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity every day and limiting their use of electronic devices and television screen time to no more than two hours a

day. These recommendations are rarely followed, with the average 13-year-old spending more than three hours staring at some sort of screen every day. This can contribute to weight gain, poor posture and increased pain.

Children also face other modern challenges. Repetitive stress injuries such as "text thumb, text neck and selfie elbow" are now common complaints. Constantly being hunched over a phone screen can reduce breath function. Gazing downward creates stress in the joints of the neck. Back, neck and shoulder pain, and headaches are more common in children who use a computer for two or more hours per day. This includes most, if not all, Australian children.

Ah, the joys of technology! Luckily, because of their youth, the impact of these challenges can be reversed with the right care. You can help your child by encouraging regular physical activities that they enjoy, as well as providing a healthy balanced diet.

Chiropractors can also play a role in keeping children well. Your chiropractor can provide ergonomic advice to lessen the strain of sitting at a screen. They can assess your child's spine to determine any joint dysfunction or the presence of scoliosis (abnormal curvature of the spine), and then provide appropriate care and advice.



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.

PRACTICE UPDATE

ON ARRIVAL AT CLINIC

Please see the receptionist upon arrival. This eliminates the possibility of you being overlooked and enables us to have your file and x-rays ready. Please return the file to reception upon completion of your treatment.

APPOINTMENTS

Your appointment schedule is designed specifically to obtain the best possible results. Please be sure to make up any missed appointments.

Should you wish to change an appointment, we would appreciate as much notice as possible so that other patients can be offered your time.

PHONE CALLS

Doctors in this practice may be contacted by phone during surgery hours. A message will be taken if the doctor is with another patient and your call will be returned when the doctor is available.

FEEDBACK

We are here to serve you. Please speak to your chiropractor or the staff about any concerns you may have.

We see your constructive comments as helping us to help you and others.

WAITING TIMES

Despite our best intentions, we sometimes run late! This is because someone has needed unexpected urgent attention.

Be assured that when it comes your turn the chiropractor will not rush to catch up but will give your problem the time it deserves. Thank you for your consideration.

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HEALTHY HINTS

EAT fish twice a week.

DRINK at least a litre of water a day.

WALK, swim or cycle for 20 minutes three times a week.

THEN ...

you'll feel better!

Take me home to complete the **WORD SEARCH**