

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



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019

Sleeping comfortably with lower back pain

As anyone with lower back pain will know, it can take time to find the best sleeping position. But is the one you found comfortable and beneficial?

Not every sleep position can help relieve back pain, even if it's the best way for you to fall asleep. A poor sleeping position can aggravate, or even cause lower back pain. The position you choose should maintain the natural curvature of your spine without pressure on your neck, hips, or back.

One of the best ways to sleep is on your back, as this distributes your body weight evenly; and ensures alignment of your head, neck and spine. However, not everyone finds this position comfortable; for additional support place a small pillow under your knees, and fill the gaps between your body and mattress with thin pillows.

If you're a side sleeper, take care, as sleeping on your side can strain your lower back. To minimise strain and keep your head, shoulders and hips correctly aligned, try sleeping with a firm pillow

between your knees, and one to support your head and neck.

If you have a herniated disc, then a curled foetal position may provide relief. Lie on your side with your knees tucked into your chest and your back straight. Support your head and neck with a pillow, and place a firm pillow between your knees.

Sleeping on your front is one of the worst positions, but may benefit people with degenerative disc disease or a herniated disc. Place a thin pillow under your stomach and hips to raise your mid-section and help spinal alignment. You can sleep with your head on a flat pillow, or none at all, but make sure your head isn't turned to the side, as this can twist the spine.

Your sleeping position, mattress, and pillows all need to work in harmony so that you can sleep comfortably with lower back pain. If you are experiencing pain and discomfort and need advice, speak with your local chiropractor.

What is sacroiliitis?

If you suffer from pain in your lower back, hips, buttocks, and legs, could sacroiliitis be the cause?

Sacroiliitis is inflammation of the sacroiliac joint, which can affect one or both joints. The sacroiliac joints are at the lower part of your spine where it connects to your pelvic area near your hips.

In general the symptoms of sacroiliitis include pain in the lower back, hips, buttocks, legs, knees, and less commonly, feet. Sometimes that pain is accompanied by a mild fever. You may also notice the pain worsening after long periods of standing or putting more weight on one leg than the other, climbing stairs, and taking long strides when running or walking.

There is no single reason why people suffer from sacroiliitis, and it can affect anyone. However, it's quite common in pregnant women because the body is preparing for a baby, and the hip and sacroiliac joints

naturally loosen. Pregnancy can alter the way you walk and cause inflammation, which leads to the condition.

Aside from pregnancy, it can also be caused from gout, joint damage from a fall or accident, or an inflamed sacroiliac joint. Existing back and spine issues, osteoarthritis and ankylosing spondylitis (an inflammatory form of arthritis), can also cause sacroiliitis.

Sacroiliitis shares traits with many other lower back pain issues, so it's advisable to consult your health professional for a correct diagnosis. Once you receive a definite diagnosis for the condition, your treatment type can be determined.

Your health professional may also recommend measures to manage your symptoms such as correcting your posture, stretching to maintain joint flexibility, and strengthening exercises to make your muscles more stable.

Try the Spicy Lentil Sweet Potato Dhal recipe inside.

Turmeric: the spice of life

This colourful spice adds flavour and colour to your meals, but what else could turmeric do for you?

Turmeric has long been considered one of the most beneficial foods in the world, and now shows promising results from many high-quality studies on its health benefits. The roots of the turmeric plant are used fresh, or dried and ground into a powder; both forms have been used in Asia as a medicine and a spice for thousands of years.

One of the compounds that make turmeric so nutritious, and also gives it the orange-yellow colour, is curcumin. Curcumin boasts anti-inflammatory and antioxidant effects, improves brain function, shows promise in cancer prevention, and much more.

Turmeric is one of the most beneficial foods in the world

Anti-inflammatory compound

Inflammation is an essential function that helps your body repair damage and fight bacteria. However extensive or chronic inflammation can cause serious health problems. It's believed that chronic inflammation may contribute to some illnesses, such as cancer, heart disease, stroke, diabetes, arthritis, and Alzheimer's.

Curcumin is powerful in fighting chronic inflammation. Studies show that it can match the effectiveness of some anti-inflammatory drugs.

Brain and heart health

Curcumin can increase the levels of growth hormone in your brain, helping your neurons form new connections. This shows promise for improved learning and memory, and in the prevention of depression.

Curcumin can play a part in heart health by improving the lining of the blood vessels which helps regulate blood pressure, clotting, and inflammation.

Antioxidant benefits

We often hear about antioxidants, but what exactly are they? Antioxidants are molecules in our bodies that fight damage caused by unstable molecules (known as free radicals). We need a balance of free radicals and antioxidants. When this balance is disrupted, our health can suffer.

Curcumin is an exceptionally powerful antioxidant that neutralises free radicals to slow down the aging process, and prevent disease.

Cancer treatment prospects

Intensive studies have shown that curcumin can help reduce the growth of malignant cells in some forms of cancer. Research is in its infancy, but the results are promising.



To reap the health benefits, it's important to know that it's not as easy as stocking up on the spice, or heading out for a turmeric latte. The curcumin content in turmeric is a mere three percent, and is also difficult for your body to absorb, so curcumin supplements may be the most effective approach.

Not all curcumin supplements are created equal though, and more evidence on the reported benefits is needed. Some contain other ingredients such as piperine (a compound in black pepper), which can help aid absorption by up to 2,000 percent. Consuming curcumin with a fatty meal could also help, as it is fat soluble.

There's no denying that turmeric is a delicious and healthy addition to your diet, but too much can sometimes cause stomach irritation, so remember, everything in moderation. Talk to your GP about whether curcumin supplements would be suitable for you.

C L E V E R C R O S S W O R D

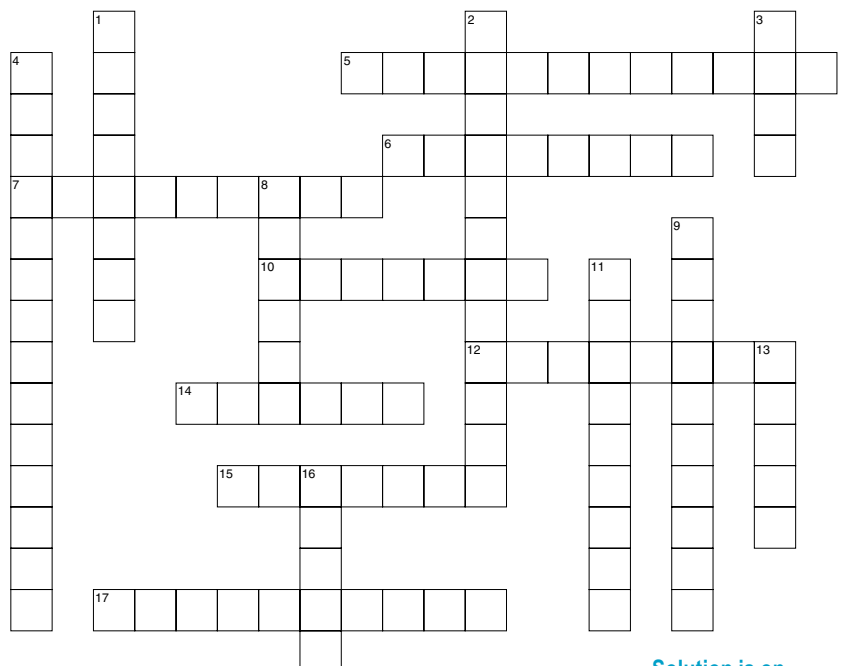
ACROSS

- A disease in which the bones become very porous and break easily
- Able to bend, supple
- The identifying of an illness or disorder
- Come apart or burst open
- Something that sets off an action, process, or series of events
- Hurting or sensitive
- Tiredness
- Eased

DOWN

- A recurrent, throbbing, very painful headache
- Deteriorating
- A flat round structure that separates the bones of the spine
- Relating to the heart and the blood vessels
- A painful injury to the ligaments of a joint caused by wrenching or overstretching
- Repeating, recurring
- Make worse
- An involuntary sudden muscle contraction
- A substance that builds up in our bodies and causes harm

Answers to clues can be found in this edition of Your Chiropractor.



Solution is on the back page.

Running from **lower back pain**

Exercise, such as running, can help you keep fit and active, but what if it's painful?

Running is a popular form of exercise for many people who want to keep fit, but it involves repetitive impact on the joints which can cause back pain, especially in the lower back. If you already suffer from lower back pain, running may make it worse, or lead to other types of pain, such as sciatica (leg pain, weakness and numbness).

Muscle strain

One of the more common types of pain from running is a muscular strain, which can appear as a spasm or ache in your lower back. This type of pain doesn't travel into the legs or buttocks. Resting, heat or cold therapy, and stretching are some self-care measures that may help relieve muscle strain. If the pain is not alleviated by these measures after two to three weeks, there may be a more serious problem.

Disc problems

Sometimes, back pain can be a sign of a spinal problem, such as degenerative disc disease (DDD), or a herniated disc. Your discs are your lower back's 'shock absorbers'; over time, running can cause a high level of stress on these, which can make existing or developing back

problems worse. DDD occurs when the disc gradually loses that shock absorbing quality due to wear-and-tear, or injury. A herniated disc is one that has begun to bulge or rupture, which puts pressure on the surrounding nerves.

If you notice that you have ongoing lower back pain after a run, whether it's muscular or structural, check with a health professional to help diagnose any problems and provide the correct treatment. Running injuries should be treated early before they worsen.

After diagnosis and treatment is in place, some preventative measures may help alleviate pain and discomfort in your legs and lower back:

- Warm up before a run
- Stretch your hamstrings
- Wear comfortable and supportive running shoes
- Avoid running on hard surfaces such as concrete
- Incorporate muscle toning, strength training and cross-training

See your chiropractor for advice and treatment on how to get you back on track and enjoying your run with minimal, or no pain.



Warming, Spicy Lentil and Sweet Potato Dhal

This dhal is gorgeous and golden thanks to a generous helping of turmeric. Once the aromas fill the air you'll find it's not just a pretty face, but also healthy and delicious. It's a one pot meal, so it's a breeze to make and great for lunch, dinner or a side dish.

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp coconut or olive oil
- 1 red onion, finely chopped
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- Thumb-sized piece ginger, peeled and finely chopped
- 1 red chilli, deseeded and finely chopped
- 1 ½ tsp ground turmeric
- 1 ½ tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp coriander
- 2 sweet potatoes (about 400g), peeled and cut into approx. 2cm chunks
- 600ml vegetable stock
- 250g red split lentils
- 80g bag of baby spinach
- Handful of coriander leaves, plain unsweetened yoghurt to serve.

Method

1. Heat 1 tbsp oil in a wide, heavy-based pan with a tight-fitting lid.
2. Add onion and cook over a low heat for 10 mins, stirring occasionally until softened.
3. Add garlic, ginger and chilli, cook for 1 min, then turmeric, cumin and coriander, and cook for 1 min more.
4. Turn up the heat to medium, add sweet potatoes, and stir everything together.
5. Add lentils, vegetable stock and a couple of pinches of salt.
6. Bring to the boil, then reduce the heat, cover and simmer for 20 mins
7. Stir in the spinach until it wilts.
8. Serve topped with coriander leaves and a dollop of yoghurt.

Scoop up the glorious flavours with your favourite flat bread and enjoy!

What **type of headache** do I have?

Headaches are one of the most common health problems that medical professionals treat, but did you know the diagnosis can differ from one person to the next?

Headaches can be painful, irritating, and debilitating. Sometimes, you can make it through the day without a problem, but other times you have to crawl into bed and block out the world.

There are many different kinds and causes of headaches, two of the most common are tension headaches and migraines. Both can range from mild to severe, and can be experienced on one or both sides of the head; however there are some differences that can help determine which kind of headache you have.

Tension headaches

Tension headaches are the most common and can make you feel like your head is tight or under pressure; they don't usually get worse with exertion. The pain may be associated with tenderness of the muscles of the head, neck, and shoulders, and can last for a few hours, or even up to a week.

Migraines

Migraines are usually described as a throbbing sensation, and physical exertion can make the pain worse. The throbbing is believed to be related to blood flow changes in the brain causing irritation and swelling of the blood vessels.

Unlike tension headaches, migraines can cause nausea, vomiting and sensitivity to light, smell, and sound. Migraines can be with or without aura; a migraine aura can be any of a collection of neurological symptoms such as numbness, speaking difficulties, vision changes, and tingling, which signal the onset of a migraine.

What causes headaches?

Tension or stress is more likely to cause a tension headache, but there are many triggers for migraines. Certain foods, smells, weather changes, hormones, and a lack of sleep can all cause them.

Diagnosis and treatment

There are no migraine-specific tests, but your GP may run tests to rule out other conditions. It can be helpful to monitor your headache activity by noting your diet, events, symptoms and medication, before and during your headache.

Determining the cause of your headaches or migraines may involve a process of elimination. Sometimes, it can be as simple as cutting out an ingredient from your diet. While there is no overall cure, doctors will often recommend medication or therapeutic intervention.

If you are suffering from severe, ongoing headaches, or are experiencing head pain with unusual symptoms and a high fever, see your GP immediately. They can rule out underlying conditions before helping you to manage the pain.

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.



HEALTHY HINTS

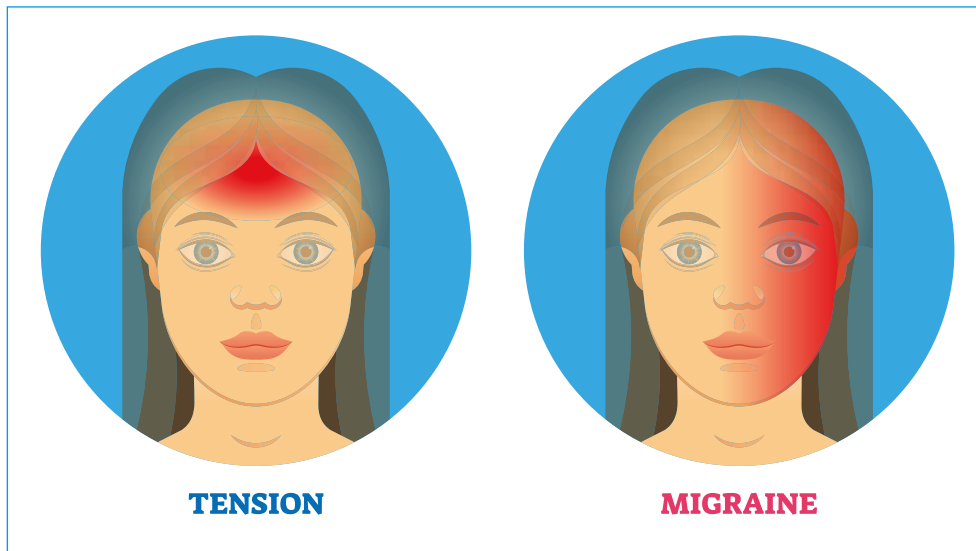
EAT fish twice a week.

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!



ACROSS 5. OSTEOPOROSIS 6. FLEXIBLE 7. DIAGNOSIS 10. RUPTURE
 12. TRIGGERS 14. TENDER 15. FATIGUE 17. ALLEVIATED
 DOWN 1. MIGRAINE 2. DEGENERATIVE 3. DISC 4. CARDIOVASCULAR
 8. SPRAIN 9. REPETITIVE 11. AGGRAVATE 13. SPASM 16. TOXIN



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.

Take me home to complete our **PUZZLE.**