

Gluten and Arthritis



Presenters



Dr. Siân Bevan Chief Science Officer Arthritis Society Canada (Moderator)



Cristina Montoya Registered Dietitian A person living with RA and Sjögren's Ontario



Arthritis steals... mobility. careers. joy. identity. Arthritis devastates lives.

Arthritis Awareness Month is September 3-October 12.

It's time to crush the stigma and change the conversation.

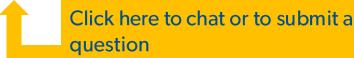
Visit <u>arthritis.ca/steals</u> to learn more.



Webinar tips

- Use the Q&A section to ask the presenters your questions. Some of the questions will be chosen for the live question period at the end of the webinar.
- Click on the Chat box to connect with other participants and Arthritis Society Canada's chat moderator.
- If you have further issues,
 email arthritistalks@arthritis.ca









Gluten-related disorders and arthritis



Are gluten free diets recommended for people living with arthritis?



Potential food intolerances for people living with arthritis

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Q: What are gluten-related disorders?



Gluten-Related Disorders





Autoimmune disease that causes damage to the gut lining

Gluten



Wheat Allergy

IgE-mediated
allergic reaction to
proteins found in
wheat

Wheat proteins



Non-Celiac Gluten/Wheat Sensitivity

GI and extra-GI symptoms after ingesting gluten or other wheat components

Gluten and/or ATIs



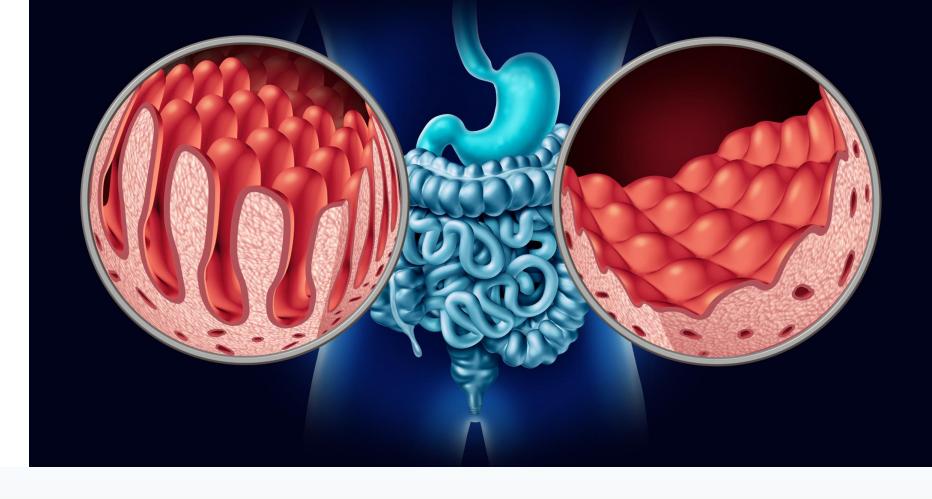
Fructan Intolerance

Intolerance to fermentable carbohydrates (FODMAP)

Fructans

Images source: Canva Pro





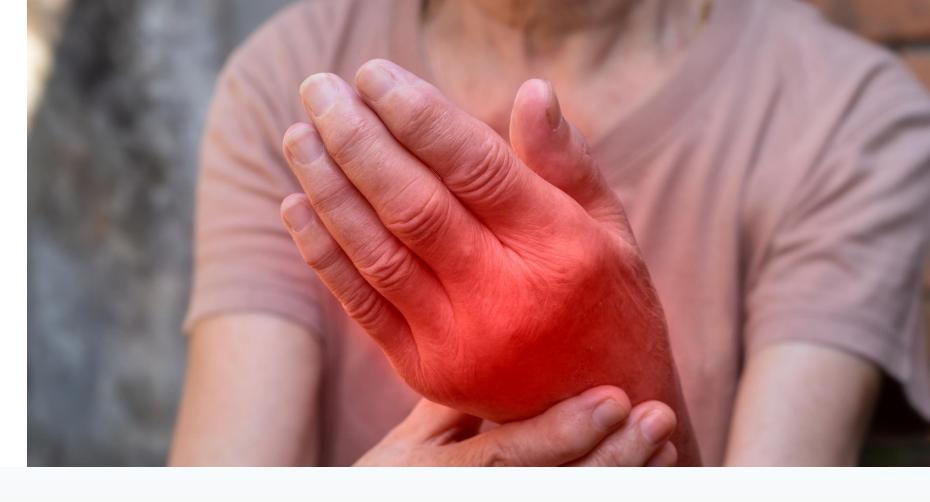
Q: Is gluten intolerance the same as celiac disease?





	Celiac Disease	Wheat Allergy	Non-Celiac Gluten/Wheat Sensitivity	Fructan Intolerance
Diagnosis	lgA (tTg-lgA) + lgA antibodies Small intestinal biopsy	Skin prick test Oral food challenge Allergist	Rule out CD and WA Gluten challenge No gut damage	Fructan-containing foods challenge (wheat, rye, barley)
Associated Symptoms	GI: Abdominal pain, heartburn, N/V, diarrhea, constipation, lactose intolerance Non-GI: Iron, folic acid and/or B12, A, D, calcium deficiencies, fatigue, wt loss, joint pain, muscle cramps	Allergic reaction: hives, swollen mouth/tongue, nausea/vomiting, difficulty swallowing, skin rashes, difficulty breathing, anaphylaxis.	GI: Abdominal pain, diarrhea, N/V, bloating Non-GI: headache, fatigue, eczema, joint pain, numbness hand and feet "brain fog"	GI: Abdominal pain, constipation and/or diarrhea, N/V, bloating, excessive gas production
Arthritis Connection	Sjögren's Disease Autoimmune thyroid disease Type 1 diabetes	N/A	Fibromyalgia Sjogren's Disease Spondyloarthritis (?) RA (?)	Fibromyalgia Associated with IBS
Level of Gluten Avoidance	Complete avoidance, Ocross contamination	Complete wheat avoidance. Rye/barley may not trigger symptoms.	Unknown	No need to avoid gluten completely

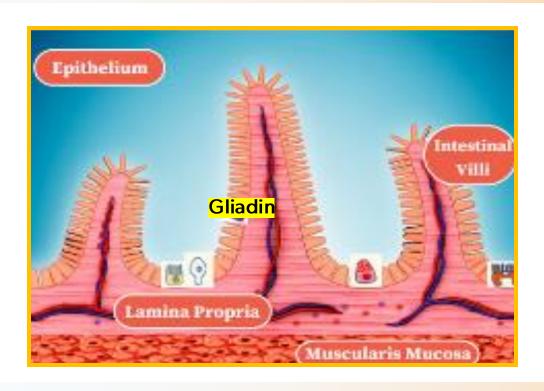




Q: Are certain types of inflammatory arthritis at higher risk for developing celiac disease or non-celiac gluten sensitivity?



The Gut-Joint Axis Hypothesis



The mucosa of the gastrointestinal tract is essential for the immune system's function.

According to the **gut-joint hypothesis**, changes in the gut microbiota may cause immune cells to migrate to joints through intestinal permeability, triggering inflammatory reactions.

Gliadin activate the immune cells leading to an inflammatory response.

"The hypotheses assume that since celiac disease and other autoimmune disease share HLA genes, it is possible that this genetic load transfer some gluten toxicity to other autoimmune diseases."



Reumatología Clínica

Non-celiac Gluten Sensitivity and Rheumatic Diseases*

Carlos Isasi, a. Eva Tejerina, Luz M. Morán Carlos Isasi, a. Eva Tejerina, Luz M. Morán Carlos Isasi, a. Eva Tejerina, b. Luz M. Morán Carlos Isasi, a. Eva Tejerina, a. Eva Tejerina, b. Luz M. Morán Carlos Isasi, a. Eva Tejerina, a. Eva Tejerina, b. Luz M. Morán Carlos Isasi, a. Eva Tejerina, a. Eva

Sjögren's Disease

- Increased prevalence of CD and NCGS
- Shared genetic markers
- Symptom overlap

Bartoloni E, Bistoni O, Alunno A, et al. (2019)

Observations: individuals with fibromyalgia and spondylarthritis might benefit from a gluten-free diet when:



- Fatigue with unknown etiology
- Oral candidiasis (yeast)
- Digestive symptoms
- Iron-deficiency anemia
- Relatives with celiac disease

The evidence for rheumatoid arthritis is weak

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b Servicio de Anatomía Patológica, Hospital Puerta de Hierro Majadahonda, Majadahonda, Madrid, Spain

^e Servicio de Radiodiagnóstico, Hospital Puerta de Hierro Majadahonda, Majadahonda, Madrid, Spain





Q: What is a gluten challenge and when should I do it?

Gluten Challenge

- Transglutaminase (tTG) IgA antibodies are used to screen for CD.
- If the tTG test returns negative due to a GF diet, an HLA genetic test can help ascertain the need for additional testing.
- About 99% of individuals with CD test positive for HLA DQ2 and/or HLA DQ8; a negative result effectively rules out CD. A positive result does not confirm CD.
- Approximately 40% of adults in North America may test positive for these genes, yet only about 4% will develop CD.

Modified Gluten Challenge A new approach has reduced the gluten challenge from 10g to 3g per day, resulting in improved patient tolerance. 1.5 slice bread (3g) or equivalent a day 1/2 c pasta wheat 3 graham cookies www.celiac.ca







Q: Should I go on a gluten-free diet?



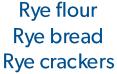
Before starting a gluten-free diet, consider these questions:

- Have you been tested for celiac disease and wheat allergy?
- If you experience digestive symptoms such as abdominal pain, bloating, nausea/vomiting, constipation, diarrhea, rectal bleeding, GERD, or early satiety, have you been assessed for any other GI conditions?
 - Inflammatory Bowel Diseases (AI)
 - Microscopic colitis
 - Functional Gl disorders (dyspepsia)
 - Overlapping IBS or SIBO
 - Bile acid diarrhea
 - Exocrine pancreatic insufficiency
 - Dyssynergic defecation

What foods contain gluten, even the slightest amount?

Wheat **Barley** Atta Beer (ale, lager, porter, stout) Bulgur (Tabbouleh) Barley (pearl, flakes, flour) Couscous Brewer's yeast Communion wafers Malt Farro or Spelt Malted barley Durum, Einkorn, Emmer Malted barley flour Farina Malt extract (Malt syrup) Graham flour Malt flavouring Hydrolyzed Wheat Protein Malt vinegar Miso Hidden sources: chocolates, Rice Semolina, Krispies, Horlicks, Milo **Triticale** Emmer Wheat bran, wheat starch Seitan (a meat substitute made from gluten) Soy Sauce Tempura Spelt (dinkel, farro)





Oats

Oats
Oat bran
Oat flour
Oatmeal



Sources of FODMAP foods/ingredients

Fermentable Oligo-Di-Mono-and Polyols

FODMAP	Examples		
Fructans	Barley, Rye, Wheat Artichoke, chicory root, inulin, dates, figs, garlic, onion, leek, watermelon		
Galactans	Black beans, chickpeas, kidney beans, lentils, soybeans		
Lactose	Milk, ice cream, soft cheese		
Fructose	Agave, High-fructose corn syrup, honey Fruits (apple, cherry, mango, peaches, pear, prune, watermelon), Veggies: sugarsnap peas, artichoke, asparagus		
Polyols and sugar alcohols	Fruits (apple, apricot, blackberry, nectarine, peach, pear, plum, prune, watermelon). Veggies (cauliflower, button mushroom, snow peas, sweet corn) Maltitol, Mannitol, Sorbitol, Xylitol		





Q. Are foods without gluten-related ingredients safe for individuals with celiac disease or wheat allergies?

The product contained gluten that was not declared on the label

- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency recalled the product in June 2024
- Allergy information:
 produced in a facility that may
 contain wheat. It doesn't say
 if the rolled oats are gluten free



INGREDIENTS: Organic Rolled Oats, Organic Oat Flour, Organic Invert Cane Sugar, Organic Dried Apricots, Organic Expeller Pressed Canola Oil, Organic Unsalted Butter, Organic Raisins, Organic Flax Seeds, Organic Sunflower Seeds, Organic Granulated Sugar, Organic Shredded Coconut, Organic Honey, Organic Quinca, Organic Chia Seeds, Sea Salt, Baking Soda, Vanilla Extract, Organic Rice Flour.

ALLERGY INFORMATION: Contains Milk and Coconut. Produced in a facility that may contain Wheat, Soy, Eggs, Peanuts and Tree Nuts. May contain pit and nutshell fragments. STORAGE: Store in a cool, dry area. Freezer Friendly.

Gluten-free baked products are not necessarily low FODMAP, and vice versa

Gluten Free Bread with **High FODMAP** ingredients



Gluten free, Number conscious, Plain, Seeded Herb & Garlic or Lemon Blueberry. Pick your bagel and bite in with no fear, knowing that the taste, texture, spreadability and crumb are going to live up to even the most astronomical expectations.

Ingredients:

Resistan ava bean protein, Fava bean High olei e, Rice bran, Xanthan protein, inulin For the m

NUTRITION FACTS









Low FODMAP bread with Gluten containing ingredients

COBS BREAD

LOWFOD™ LOAF

Low Fodmap Mix (Wheat Gluten, Wheat Starch, Oat Bran, Millet, Enriched Wheat Flour, Cracked Sorghum, Salt, Poppy Seed, Flax Seed, Hydroxyproyl Methylcellulose, Psyllium Seed Husk, Malted Barley Flour, Amylase, Ascorbic Acid, Lipase, Xylanase), Water, Yeast, Canola Oil. Contains: Wheat.May Contain: Egg, Milk, Mustard,





Q: How do I identify foods that are gluten-free?

Gluten risk based on labelling

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Food Item or Product	ALLOWED	AVOID
NO "Gluten-Free" claim, NO gluten-containing ingredients	/	
NO "Gluten-Free" claim AND a "Contains" statement for wheat or other gluten ingredients		Х
NO "Gluten-Free" claim, NO gluten-containing ingredients BUT a "May contain wheat" claim		Х
A "Gluten-Free" claim on a product	/	
A "Gluten-Free" claim AND a "May contain wheat" claim	/	
Gluten-Free Products made in a bakery that also produces gluten-containing products		Х

Health Canada strongly recommends individuals with wheat allergies and celiac disease to AVOID products with "May contain wheat" statements, unless they have a "Gluten-free" label.

In Canada, foods containing less than 20 parts per million (ppm) of gluten do not have to be labelled as containing gluten

BLUEBERRY ALMOND

BARS



INGREDIENTS: GRAIN & SEED BLEND (GLUTEN FREE ROLLED OATS, ORGANIC BROWN RICE CRISPS (ORGANIC BROWN RICE FLOUR), FLAX SEEDS, ORGANIC SPROUTED CHIA SEEDS, OUINOA), ORGANIC BROWN RICE SYRUP, BLUEBERRIES (WILD BLUEBERRIES, APPLE JUICE CONCENTRATE, SUNFLOWER OIL), ALMOND BUTTER, COCONUT OIL, ALMONDS, ORGANIC VANILLA FLAVOR, CINNAMON, SEA SALT, SUNFLOWER TOCOPHEROL, SUNFLOWER LECTHIN.

CONTAINS: ALMONDS.

MADE IN A FACILITY THAT ALSO USES: EGG, MILK, OTHER TREE NUTS, PEANUT, SOY.

















Labelling practices vary from one country to another



The Canadian Food Inspection Agency recalled the product in June 2024

INGREDIENTS: Organic Rolled Oats, Organic Oat Flour, Organic Invert Cane Sugar, Organic Dried Apricots, Organic Expeller Pressed Canola Oil, Organic Unsalted Butter, Organic Raisins, Organic Flax Seeds, Organic Sunflower Seeds, Organic Granulated Sugar, Organic Shredded Coconut, Organic Honey, Organic Quinoa, Organic Chia Seeds, Sea Salt, Baking Soda, Vanilla Extract, Organic Rice Flour.

ALLERGY INFORMATION: Contains Milk and Coconut. Produced in a facility that may contain Wheat, Soy, Eggs, Peanuts and Tree Nuts. May contain pit and nutshell fragments. STORAGE: Store in a cool, dry area. Freezer Friendly. The product contained gluten that was not declared on the label

Allergy information: produced in a facility that may contain wheat. It doesn't say if the rolled oats are gluten-free





Q. What does a day look like on a gluten-free diet?



Visualize a One-Day Gluten-Free (and Low FODMAP) Menu Packed with 25-38g of Fibre

Breakfast (Oatmeal = 6g)

- 1/2 c gluten-free rolled oats (2g)
- 1 c milk alternative (almond, hemp)
- 1/2 c blueberries (2g)
- 1 oz walnuts (2g)

Lunch (Mediterranean salad = 14g)

- 1/2 c cooked edamame (4g)
- 1/2 c cooked quinoa (5g)
- 1/4 c green onions green tops only (1g)
- 3 tbsps fetta cheese
- 1/2 c baby spinach (1g)

Dinner (Salmon & Veggies = 6g)

- 4 oz Salmon
- 1 c lightly sauteed veggies (green beans, carrots) (4g)
- 1/2 baked small sweet potato (2g)

Dessert or Snack (Chia pudding = 9g)

- 2 tbsp chia seeds (7g)
- 1/2 cup almond milk
- 2 tbsp strawberries (2g)

Total Fibre: 35g

Low FODMAP





Breakfast

*serve with GF bread



Lunch



Dinner



Dessert or Snack



Beverage







Q. What are the nutritional risks of following a gluten-free diet without proper guidance?





Nutritional implications of a gluten free diet

- GF diets tend to be higher in saturated fats, sugar and salt and lower in protein and fibre.
- The intake of essential minerals and vitamins (iron, calcium, selenium, magnesium, zinc, folates, and B-complex vitamins) could be inadequate in those who follow a GF without professional guidance.
- Long-term avoidance of fructan-type resistant starches (like oligofructose and inulin) or FODMAPs may increase the risk of gut dysbiosis.
- Food insecurity and specialty diets. GF products are priced 500% higher.







Q. What other food intolerances are common for people living with arthritis?

Food intolerance vs sensitivity vs allergy

Intolerance

Inability to digest or process certain foods.

Lactose intolerance



Sensitivity

Symptoms unrelated to food intolerance or food allergy

Exposure to specific foods **MAY** create an immune reaction.



Gluten

Allergy

IgE-mediated immune response

"protein component"

8 Foods: milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, fish, shellfish, wheat and soy



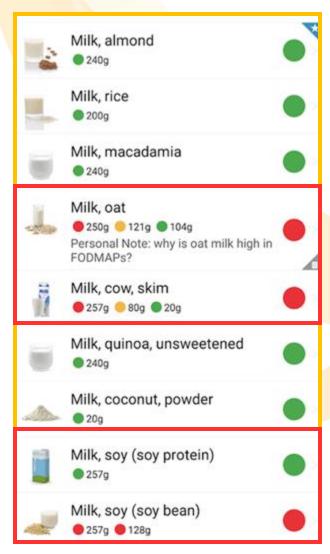
Food sensitivities can fade away with time due to our changing immune system and gut microbiome

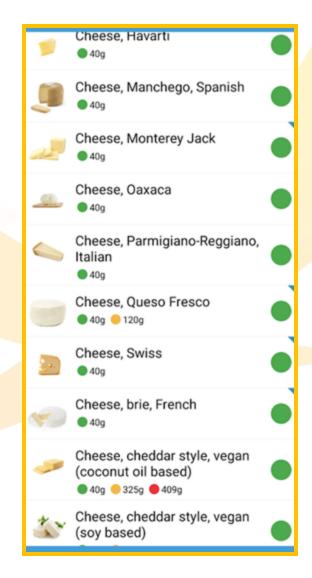
Q. Why can't I tolerate certain dairy alternatives?

"Lactose intolerance is a clinical syndrome in which lactose ingestion causes symptoms such as abdominal pain, bloating, flatulence and diarrhea due to lactose malabsorption."

- Bridges M (2018)

Fermentable Oligo Di- Mono
- and Polyols LOAD











Q. Do nightshade vegetables affect your arthritis symptoms?

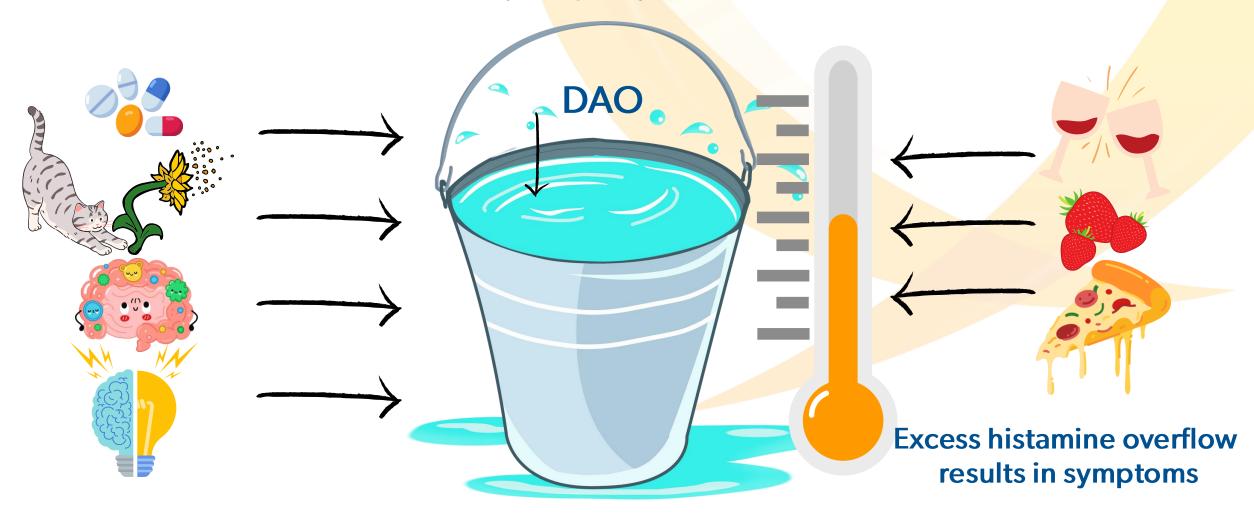
Nightshades include commonly consumed fruits, vegetables and spices, which are rich in antioxidants, polyphenols and fibre:

- Hot peppers
- Cayenne pepper, paprika (Capsaicin)
- Eggplants
- Peppers
- Potatoes
- Tomatoes
- Goji berries
- Blueberries (contain solanine)



Histamine Intolerance

"Histamine intolerance is characterized by the accumulation of histamine to a point that exceeds the body's capacity to eliminate it."







Q. What are the top safety tips for an individual with celiac disease or non-celiac gluten sensitivity?

10 Safety Tips for individuals with CD or NCGS on Gluten-Free Diet

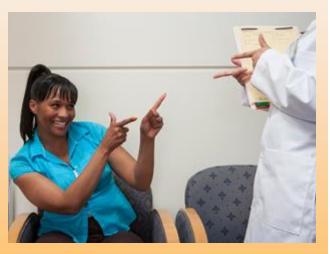
- 1. Stick to a strict gluten-free diet, avoid all foods and products containing wheat, barley, rye, and their derivatives.
- 2. Check food labels for hidden sources of gluten. Look for gluten-free certification on packaged foods.
- 3. Avoid cross-contamination in the kitchen. Use separate utensils, cutting boards, and toasters for gluten-free foods.
- 4. When eating out, call the restaurant in advance, inform the staff about your gluten-free needs. Ask about ingredients and food preparation methods to ensure no cross-contamination.
- 5. Ensure a balanced and nutrient-rich diet by including naturally gluten-free foods like fruits, vegetables, lean proteins, and gluten-free grains (e.g., quinoa, rice).





10 Safety Tips for individuals with Celiac Disease on Gluten-Free Diet

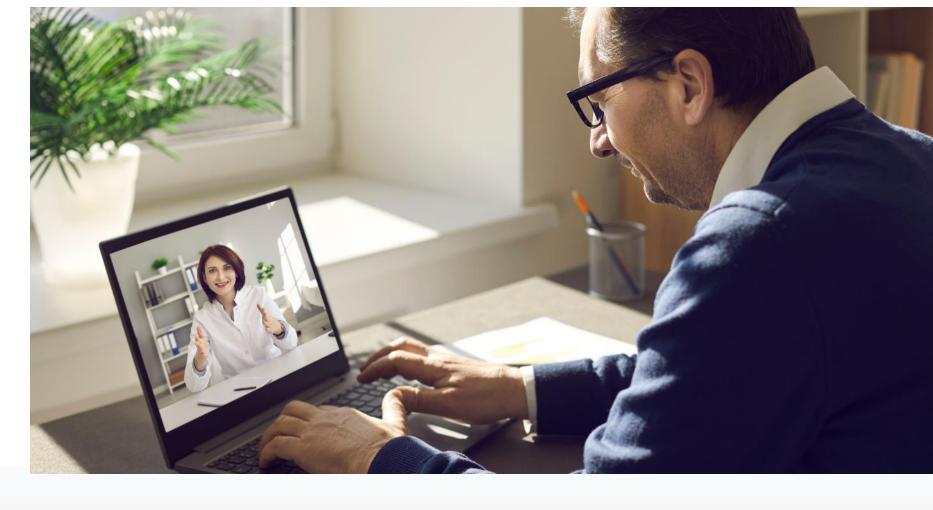
- 6. Schedule regular check-ups with your healthcare provider to monitor your health and nutritional status.
- 7. Stay informed about celiac disease and educate family, friends, and caregivers about your dietary needs.
- 8. Consult with a Registered Dietitian to assess the need of supplements, especially iron, folic acid, B12, calcium, and vitamin D.
- 9. Connect with support groups for emotional support and practical advice.
- 10. Be aware of labeling like "gluten friendly," "gluten smart," "gluten aware." When in doubt, leave it out!



Images source: Canva Pro







Q: What excites you about the future for those diagnosed today?

Collaborative research with people living with RA and OA

"Plants for Joints" for RA

Intervention Group + Usual care 16 weeks (n= 77)

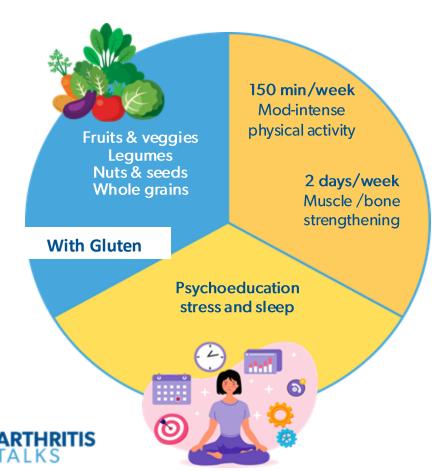
JOURNAL ARTICLE

A multidisciplinary lifestyle program for rheumatoid arthritis: the 'Plants for Joints' randomized controlled trial 3

Wendy Walrabenstein ➡, Carlijn A Wagenaar, Marike van der Leeden, Franktien Turkstra, Jos W R Twisk, Maarten Boers, Henriët van Middendorp, Peter J M Weijs, Dirkjan van Schaardenburg

Rheumatology, Volume 62, Issue 8, August 2023, Pages 2683–2691, https://doi.org/10.1093/rheumatology/keac693

Published: 06 January 2023 Article history ▼



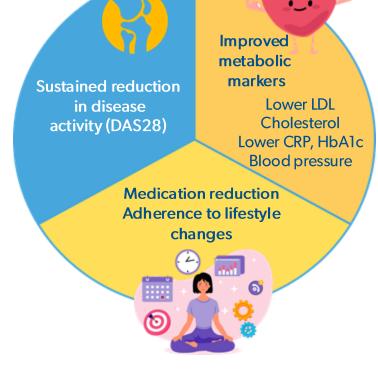
Collaborative research with people living with RA and OA

1 year follow-up "Plants for Joints" for RA and OA

OA = 49

RA = 77







"The results emphasized the potential use of the PFJ intervention as an additional treatment option in people with RA or OA, alongside care."







Q: Any final thoughts or recommendations?

Cristina Montoya RD

@arthritisdietitian

Final thoughts

- 1. There is insufficient scientific evidence to support eliminating gluten from the diet of people with inflammatory arthritis or osteoarthritis without celiac disease or NCGS.
- 2. Before initiating a gluten- or wheat-free diet, consult with your healthcare provider to rule out celiac disease or wheat allergy.
- 3. Sjogren's disease has the strongest connection with CD and NCSG. Fibromyalgia is often accompanied by IBS, in which a low FODMAP diet can help improve GI symptoms.
- 4. When travelling, pack non-perishable gluten-free snacks. Research restaurants with GF menus. You can choose accommodations with a kitchenette.
- 5. Consult with a Registered Dietitian to ensure you meet your nutritional needs. Iron deficiency anemia is common in inflammatory arthritis and celiac disease and is often a missed cause of fatigue.





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- Monash University Low FODMAP. https://www.monashfodmap.com/
- Arthritis Society Canada. https://arthritis.ca/living-well





Q: Questions





Q: Tell us what you think...



Double your impact

to help take back what arthritis has stolen.



