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An Effective Anti-Snoring Solution

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My Snoring Solution - Featured
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I ordered your jaw supporter
and my wife loves it. It keeps
me from snoring, and I've
recommended it to several of
my friends.

Bill B.
Oregon



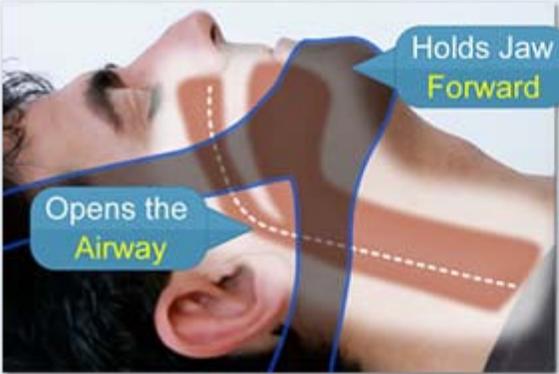
MY SNORING

How It Works...



Without a jaw supporter:

While sleeping the soft tissue at the back of the throat collapses, partially blocking the passageway. Air passing through the restricted airway causes vibrations (snoring.)



Using a jaw supporter:

Supporting the lower jaw during sleep time keeps the airway open and unrestricted, eliminating vibrations - no snoring!

Talking, drinking or breathing through the mouth during sleep time is easy with the Severe Snoring jaw supporter.

Proven results. Simple solution.

Comfortable and Effective Anti-snoring Product!

How it works - Snoring research has shown that a jaw supporter, keeping the lower jaw in an upward position increases the three dimensional space in the airway, reduces air velocity and soft tissue vibration. This action can eliminate or substantially reduce snoring.

Are You Snoring Yourself To Death?

5 years ago I almost died from obstructive sleep apnea (OSA.) My nights were filled with multiple bathroom trips, kicking and punching while sleeping and deprivation of restful sleep. As I awoke one morning, eyes blood shot and completely exhausted from literally fighting for my life all night, it was then, lying on my back in bed I decided to go and get a CPAP. It was either get help or die.

Later in the day, I drove across town to the medical supply store where I learned I had to have a prescription in order to buy a CPAP machine. The technician explained that I could obtain a prescription after I participated in a sleep study (polysomnography.) I called the doctor's office from my cell phone and learned the shocking news: It would take about 3 months to get into a sleep clinic for a polysomnography. I told the person on the phone, "I'll be dead in 3 months." I thanked her and ended the call.

MY SNORING SOLUTION



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**STOP
SNORING**

**...so EVERYONE gets
a good nights sleep!**

On the drive home I kept saying over and over to myself, "If I could just keep my mouth closed while I'm sleeping, I wouldn't be able to have the episode." I felt that OSA was a mechanical failure of the jaw and it seemed to reason that if I could keep my jaw up while I was sleeping, then my tongue couldn't fall back far enough to close off my air.

I arrived home late in the afternoon where I took a bath towel and ripped a 2" strip down one side. I took the strip, placed it under my chin and wrapped each end over the top of my head and tied a knot. Now my jaw was "supported," so to speak. I could still talk or take a drink of water, but the jaw would not be able to fall excessively backwards when I entered REM (deep) sleep. Then, I laid down on my bed and went to sleep.

Twelve hours later I woke up, lying there staring into my glowing wrist watch and doing the math 3 times: I'd actually been asleep for 12 hours without waking up. As I sat up on the edge of my bed, I could feel renewed strength and vitality. I don't have the words to tell you what that moment felt like, I just remember thinking, "There are a lot of other people who need to know about this." And the My Snoring Solution jaw supporter was born.

During the past 5 years the My Snoring Solution jaw supporter has in my opinion evolved into a comfortable and effective jaw supporter. Before, my snoring echoed throughout the house. Now, when I sleep my kids have to turn the light on to see if I'm in the room.

Stephen Matthews
Inventor



"We've been married for 21 years. Several times during the night my wife would punch me. That was the code for, "Roll over on your side so you quit snoring." I have used your "My Snoring Solution" now for 2 nights. My wife reports an amazing difference in that I am no longer snoring, on my back or my side, but what has amazed me the most is how much better I feel after a night's sleep! Thanks for a great night's sleep!"

James
San Diego, CA



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Snoring and Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) Defined

When the jaw opens and the tongue falls into the back of the throat, the airway narrows forcing air through the small opening. This creates vibrations in the throat known as snoring. Like allergies, you probably weren't born with a snore. Rather, you acquired it over time.

Many people begin sleeping with their mouth open at about 5 years of age. Gradually, muscle tissues in the mouth and throat can be stretched beyond their intended range. When this happens, snoring and the health risks associated with OSA increase. An effective jaw supporter holds the lower jaw upward and helps re-train tissue in the mouth and throat. Whether immediate, or gradual a reduction in snoring and OSA often occurs.

OSA episodes occur when the tongue or soft tissues of the throat or soft palate collapse onto the back wall of the upper airway, forming a blockage that prevents air from entering the lungs. The negative pressure of inhaling pulls harder on your tongue, sealing the airway tightly.

To resume breathing, the person must awaken (although one rarely remembers the awakening) and create tension in the tongue and throat tissue. This process opens the airway and causes a distinctive snorting sound. Within a short period of time this process often repeats itself. Several hundred OSA episodes during an 8-hour sleep time are not uncommon. Consequently, the repetition of OSA episodes can cause chronic fatigue and other major

"In the years before I began using the My Snoring Solution jaw supporter I would stop breathing dozens (perhaps hundreds) of times during the night which created a REM (deep) sleep deprivation. Understand; during REM is the only time when your heart and major muscle groups relax. REM is vital to healthy living. I was an OSA poster child, plagued with daytime fatigue, lack of motivation, poor performance at work, clinical depression and all of the other life destroying symptoms of sleep deprivation. Since I began using the My Snoring Solution jaw supporter I no longer have the life threatening symptoms of OSA. I sleep normally, all night long. No more waking up countless times, snorting, snoring and

health problems.

During the REM stage is when your major muscle groups (heart, etc.) relax. Without adequate REM sleep, your chances of heart failure are much greater than average. According to the National Sleep foundation 70% of all congestive heart failure and 60% of all strokes are directly related to some form of sleep disorder, primarily OSA.

Proper REM sleep eliminates many OSA symptoms during sleep time including: Limb jerking, punching, kicking, loud snorting, cessation of breathing, excessive daytime irritability, daytime fatigue, memory problems, poor concentration skills, heartburn, acid reflux, multiple trips to urinate during sleep time, depression, ADHD symptoms, loss of motivation and loss of motor skills.

How a Jaw Supporter Can Help Prevent Snoring and OSA

Snoring research has shown that a jaw supporter (worn during sleep time) that keeps the lower jaw in an upward position increases the three dimensional space in the airway tube which reduces air velocity and soft tissue vibration. By increasing the volumetric capacity of the airway and preventing soft tissue vibrations, snoring can be eliminated or substantially reduced. The My Snoring Solution jaw supporter comfortably keeps the lower jaw in an upward/forward position and increases three-dimensional space in the airway.

A jaw supporter is based on the same principle as CPR. The airway must be open to allow air to pass through the throat. A constricted or collapsed airway causes snoring and/or OSA. A jaw supporter can hold the lower jaw in a position so that it does not fall backwards/down during the night and cause the airway to collapse. Maintaining a clear airway improves breathing and reduces snoring.

The My Snoring Solution jaw supporter may help provide healthy REM sleep and normal jaw positioning, reducing the OSA associated health risks without the need for surgery, medications, cumbersome devices or therapy. Current CPAP users may discover wearing a jaw supporter improves the comfort and effectiveness of their CPAP. Additionally, some CPAP users report that they are able to stop using CPAP while wearing a jaw supporter.

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Clinical Trial Test Results For The My Snoring Solution Brand Jaw Supporter

Overview

The initial small scale sleep study consisted of ten patients who were tested and diagnosed with OSA. See "TABLE 1 - Baseline Study" [below.]

Approximately 2 years later the same ten patients participated in an additional sleep study. See "TABLE 2" [below.] During the second study the participants slept through the night using the mysnoringsolutions.com Jaw Supporter. The study information is posted specifically for the purpose of comparing the number of snores and OSA episodes of the participants during the

going to the bathroom. My depression is gone and I have a renewed energy and mental clarity that reminds me of when I was 14-years old!"

Perry V. 44-years old
Pace, FL

My husband works the 3-11 shift. He arrives home late and sleeps until around 9 A.M. Before he began using the My Snoring Solution jaw supporter he snored so loud that I had to wear earplugs and sleep on the other side of the house. One of my neighbors suggested the My Snoring Solution jaw supporter. My husband and I reviewed the website and ordered one. He wore it the first night it arrived. At 7 A.M. the next morning we awoke to the amazement that my husband had slept all night without snoring. Needless to say, I am truly thankful and can't recommend it strongly enough.

Zea
New York



Our 5-year old son was diagnosed as ADHD. We had received notes from his teacher regarding his inattentiveness on a regular basis. At night, his snoring was so loud we could hear him even when we closed his bedroom door, and ours.

two studies. Some patients experienced:

- A substantial reduction in the number of OSA episodes
- A substantial reduction in the number of snores
- Lower blood pressure readings in the morning

Most experienced: An increase in their oxygen saturation level.

Table 1 - Baseline Study No Jaw Supporter or Other Sleep Aid

PATIENT	APNEAS	HYPOPNEAS	SNORES	OXYGEN SATURATION	BLOOD PRESSURE AM	BLOOD PRESSURE PM
1	170	0	56	82%	123/74	135/72
2	1	53	2043	84%	-----	-----
3	0	2	844	89%	128/90	-----
4	232	0	1068	69.5%	181/99	-----
5	0	6	2410	83%	-----	-----
6	48	104	530	76.8%	-----	-----
7	85	129	468	85%	135/52	144/90
8	65	97	4904	84%	-----	-----
9	0	54	1824	84%	141/73	144/82
10	0	35	1026	70%	-----	-----

Table 2 - Study Using The "My Snoring Solution" brand Jaw Supporter

PATIENT	APNEAS	HYPOPNEAS	SNORES	OXYGEN SATURATION	BLOOD PRESSURE AM	BLOOD PRESSURE PM
1	8	0	0	87%	152/81	162/78
2	6	65	847	89%	178/91	136/78
3	0	4	430	86%	139/80	121/78
4	58	12	1382	72%	149/80	178/114
5	2	0	2090	85%	148/63	136/80
6	17	2	1774	88%	125/85	119/75
7	62	56	871	85%	104/68	123/80
8	2	36	3620	87%	134/79	140/90
9	0	0	3323	89%	120/69	117/74
10	16	92	307	72%	175/72	173/77

Ahmed Kutty, MD
 Doctor Of Pulmonary Medicine
 St. Mary Hospital

We had heard about the My Snoring Solution jaw supporter and its effects on snoring and when we saw the CNN news article (below) we decided to order one. It arrived on a Friday and he began wearing it every night (btw, he loves it!)

Next Friday, when he came home from school he had won the "Golden Bear Award" for the week. This award goes to the student who was most well behaved during the week.

Attached to the award was a note from the teacher. This time she said, "Caleb has shown a 180 degree turnaround in his attentiveness this week. Did you start him on medication? If so, what kind?"

Needless to say, we love our My Snoring Solution jaw supporter! It's amazing.

Bo & Nicky Cable
 Idaho



I was the quintessential snorer! Seriously, I had a reputation as the loudest in my dorm at college. Nothing much has changed. In fact, my snoring may be one of the primary causes of my divorce. Currently, I live with my mom and she could hear my snoring with my door closed and the TV playing.

When I saw the My Snoring Solution jaw supporter online, I thought, "I've got nothing to lose" and I ordered one. I began wearing it (at night)

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Lack of Sleep and Attention Deficit Disorder ADD Symptoms Seen In Patients with Sleep Apnea

WPXI-PITTSBURGH -- Can trouble sleeping affect an asthmatic's condition? Can it cause someone to develop the symptoms of attention deficit disorder?

New research says both are true.

Researchers at the big lung and critical care medicine meeting say that lack of sleep can play a role in both the day and night symptoms of asthma, and that sleep problems ranging from simple insomnia to sleep apnea can cause someone to have attention deficit disorder. "You seem short of breath and it gets worse and worse and then suddenly you can't breathe. It's like somebody strangling you." Mary Kane has asthma.

But her problems may not be limited to just breathing.

New research presented at the American College of Chest Physician's Annual Meeting shows asthmatics on the whole suffer significant sleep quality disturbances, and in turn, end up being sleepy during the daytime.

"So we have 487 patients, which I believe makes it the, of not one of the largest trials to look at sleep and asthma. And we found that their sleep is pretty bad. A full 30 percent of them categorize their sleep as poor or bad," says Dr. John Mastronarde, study researcher at Ohio State University.

50 percent of the patients studied reported waking up every night more than three times a week. The sleep disturbances translated into daytime sleepiness.

"We know from previous data in the literature that that has a significant consequences for public health, folks who are sleepy in the day have a high risk for car accidents, poor performance at work, etc," Mastronarde states.

There is also a chicken-egg scenario, in that the researchers found that not only does asthma create bad sleep, but that bad sleep in and of itself can worsen an asthmatic's breathing.

"We saw if your sleep is worse and then it gets better we saw that your overall quality of asthma got better as well," says Mastronarde.

Other research presented shows those with sleep apnea, a condition where a person stops breathing hundreds of times a night, can develop have a worsening of attention deficit disorder.

Of the patients studied with moderate to severe attention problems, 60 percent had their ADHD resolved after being placed on CPAP. The researchers believe that it doesn't just apply to sleep apnea, that any sleep problem can create ADHD-type symptoms.

Dr. Clifford Risk, the author of the study from the Marlboro Center for Sleep Disorders, says, "If they have ADHD the doctor should be asking them how their sleep is, do you snore or have sleep apnea and/or do you have insomnia at night?"

ADD symptoms were seen in patients with sleep apnea who had no prior history or evidence of ADD, meaning, the daytime sleepiness can actually cause add type symptoms.

Treatment of Obstructive Sleep Apnea with a Chinstrap

Recently, anesthesiologists* in Japan released clinical trial information that demonstrates how a chinstrap alone improved obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) symptoms as well as or better than

from the first day it arrived. My snoring ceased immediately. This is the only anti-snoring product that I can recommend as it is the only one that has ever worked for me, and I've tried them all!

Dr. Nick Schaeffer
Florida



I purchased your snoring solution head gear out of desperation. I have most of the symptoms listed and I was supposed to get a CPAP machine but my insurance didn't cover it, nor did I want to be hooked up to a machine nightly. I purchased your product and found it surprisingly comfortable!

It also works!! I now sleep through the night, getting up only once for a bathroom break, not up and down for hours. I don't snore, I don't spend hours trying to get back to sleep during the night and I fall asleep within a couple of minutes of first lying down at night. I have only had it for a week but my hopes are that it will help with the energy level and depression also. It isn't even as unattractive as I had imagined. My only request, from my husband, is can you make it in black lace?? LOL

Sincerely, Karen S.
North Carolina



the use of continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP.) After obtaining permission from Kochi Municipal Hospital, the anesthesiologists conducted a limited pilot study that included 30 patients.

In the study, the use of CPAP shows substantial improvement in the patient's OSA. However, the chinstrap appeared even more effective than CPAP. Additionally, the chinstrap improved the AHI better than CPAP and did not provoke the onset of sleep apnea episodes.

The anesthesiologists went on to report, "Maneuvers such as chin lift and jaw thrust improve airway patency and ventilation in anesthetized, spontaneously breathing children as well as in adults. In conclusion, lateral positioning combined with common airway maneuvers significantly improved airway patency."

Notes:

OSA symptoms are often responsible for daytime sleepiness, motor vehicle crashes, hypertension, heart disease, and stroke. Treatments include weight loss, limiting alcohol consumption, CPAP, dental appliances and surgical interventions. *Young-Chang P. Arai, MD, Kayo Fukunaga, MD, Seiji Hirota, MD, and Shoji Fujimoto, MD - Department of Anesthesiology, Kochi Municipal Hospital; and Department of Anesthesiology, Kochi Medical School, Kochi, Japan



Are Kids Snoring Their Way To ADHD? -Researchers Conclude Sleepiness And Sleep Apnea May Be Exhibited As Symptoms Of ADHD.

CNN Headline News -CHICAGO, Illinois (AP) -- New research suggests children who snore face nearly double the risk of being inattentive and hyperactive, providing fresh evidence of an intriguing link between sleep problems and attention deficit disorders.

CNN Headline News recently reported on a study that new research suggests children who snore face nearly double the risk of being inattentive and hyperactive, providing fresh evidence of an intriguing link between sleep problems and attention deficit disorders.

Children's behavioral problems may be linked to their sleep habits, according to a new study. Children who snore often are nearly twice as likely as other children to have attention and hyperactivity problems, found a new study by the University of Michigan Health System. The results, published in the March issue of the journal Pediatrics, provide some of the most solid evidence ever of a link between sleep problems and behavior. The link is strongest in boys under 8. Snorers in this group were more than three times more likely than non-snorers to be.

The National Commission on Sleep Disorders Research estimates that 38,000 cardiovascular deaths, due to sleep apnea, occur each year in the US. Over the long term, serious sleep apnea conditions have been linked to a greater risk of hypertension and cardiovascular diseases. However, sleep apnea was not well understood or recognized by the medical community until recently. And only a fraction of sufferers have been diagnosed and treated.



Can Snoring Kill? Dental Surgeons Say They've Found Why Snoring Can Kill

Snoring Can Indicate Serious Upper Airway Disorders. Blocked Airways Increase Blood Pressure, Damaging Arteries and Leading To Stroke

WASHINGTON (Reuters) Dental surgeons discover why snoring can kill: It can actually cause damage to the arteries.

Although considered harmless, snoring can actually indicate a serious medical condition called sleep apnea. Marked by irregular breathing, sleep apnea often causes sufferers to stop breathing completely for up to several seconds and has even been linked to stroke and heart disease in some patients.



"The My Snoring Solution jaw supporter is the greatest thing to happen for the prevention of snoring and OSA since CPAP. No matter your age or body weight, you have a good chance that this product will work for you. It has tremendous promise."

Valerie Arseneau
Clinical Trial Sleep Lab
Technician



"When persons with sleep apnea fall asleep, their tongue falls back into their throat, blocking their airway," Dr. Arthur Friedlander, an oral surgeon who worked on the study conducted at University of California's School of Dentistry, said in a statement.

"As they struggle for breath, their blood pressure soars...This rise in blood pressure damages the inner walls of the carotid arteries lining the sides of the neck," he added. "Cholesterol and calcium stick to the injury sites and amass into calcified plaques, which block blood flow to the brain. The result is often a massive stroke."

According to Dr. Friedlander, these deposits of calcium deposits are merely the tip of the iceberg. "The X-ray can't show the true size of the plaque, which is also made up of fat, platelets, and other soft tissue." When a person is suffering from sleep apnea, air cannot flow in or out of the nose or mouth. Oxygen is not taken in so carbon dioxide builds to dangerous levels in the blood.

"It's like pressing a pillow over someone's face," Friedlander said.

Lack of Sleep Linked To Weight Problems

American Diabetes Association Clinical Trials Suggest Lack of Sleep Linked To Overweight and Obesity

In addition to the known health problems caused by lack of sleep, research suggests that too little sleep causes hormone changes that might lead to obesity. 924 people, 18 to 91 years of age were divided into four groups: normal weight, overweight, obese, and extremely obese. The researchers compared body mass to total sleep time and concluded that the less people slept, the heavier they tended to be (except in the extremely obese group.)

In addition to diet and exercise, quantity of sleep may be a key part of any weight-loss program. Overweight people are encouraged to examine their sleep quantity to improve weight-loss progress and results.

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Why Sleep Is Good for You and Skimping On It Isn't

Does it really matter if you get enough sleep? Absolutely. Thanks to sleep studies conducted over the past several decades, it is now known that sleep has distinctive stages that cycle throughout the night. Your brain stays active throughout sleep, but different things happen during each stage.

For instance, certain stages of sleep are indeed vital for us to feel well rested and energetic the next day, and other stages help us learn or make memories.

Not only does the quantity of your sleep matter, but the quality of your sleep (restful sleep) is essential to good health. When sleep is interrupted or cut short, one might not get enough of certain stages of sleep. In other words, how well rested you are and how well you function the next day depends on your total sleep time and how much of the various stages of sleep you receive each night.

A number of vital tasks carried out during sleep time help maintain good health and enable people to function at their best. On the other hand, not getting enough restful sleep can be dangerous for example, you are more likely to be in a car crash if you drive when you are drowsy.

How Much Sleep Is Enough?

Sleep needs vary from person to person, and they change throughout the lifecycle. Most adults need 7-8 hours of sleep each night. Newborns, on the other hand, sleep between 16 and 18 hours a day, and children in preschool sleep between 10 and 12 hours a day.

Schooled children and teens need at least 9 hours of sleep a night. Teen girls between 14-17 years of age may need as much as 12-14 hours.

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Could You Have a Sleep Disorder?

Are you spending enough time in bed, only to awake feeling exhausted and sleepy during the day? If so, you may be one of the estimated 40 million Americans with a sleep disorder. Relationships, along with school and job performance, often suffer because of persistent daytime fatigue that develops as a result of continuously disrupted sleep.

The most common sleep disorders are OSA, insomnia, restless legs syndrome and narcolepsy. Although sleep disorders can significantly affect your health, safety, and wellbeing, they can almost always be treated.

With the increased awareness in the doctor and patient communities, a growing number of new OSA patients are expected to be identified in the next few years.

Researchers and clinicians have recognized OSA as one of the most common sleep disorders and with perhaps the greatest medical and social impact on society in terms of morbidity and mortality. The syndrome strikes all sexes and all races, ages, socioeconomic strata, and ethnic groups, though it is less common in women prior to menopause, and may be more common in blacks than in whites.

Talk to your doctor if you have any of these signs of a sleep disorder:

- You consistently take more than 30 minutes each night to fall asleep.
- You consistently awaken several time each night and then have trouble falling back to sleep, or you awaken too early in the morning.
- You often feel sleepy during the day, you take frequent naps, or you fall asleep at inappropriate times during the day.
- Your bed partner says that when you sleep, you snore loudly, snort, gasp, make choking sounds, kick, and punch or stop breathing for short periods.
- You have creeping, tingling, or crawling feelings in your legs or arms that are relieved by moving or massaging them, especially in the evening and when trying to fall asleep.
- Your bed partner notices that your legs or arms jerk during sleep.

Children can have some of these same signs when they have a sleep disorder, but they often do not show signs of excessive daytime sleepiness. Instead they may seem overactive and have difficulty focusing or doing their best in school, which can be easily confused for ADHD.

Importance of Restful Sleep

In humans, it has been demonstrated that the metabolic activity of the brain decreases significantly after 24 hours of sustained wakefulness. Sleep deprivation results in a decrease in body temperature, a decrease in immune system function as measured by white blood cell count (the soldiers of the body), and a decrease in the release of growth hormone. Sleep deprivation can also cause increased heart rate variability.





For our nervous systems to work properly, sleep is needed. Sleep deprivation makes a person drowsy and unable to concentrate the next day. It also leads to impairment of memory and physical performance and reduced ability to carry out mathematical calculations. If sleep deprivation continues, hallucinations and mood swings may develop.

Release of growth hormone in children and young adults takes place during deep sleep. Most cells of the body show increased production and reduced breakdown of proteins during deep sleep. Sleep helps humans maintain optimal emotional and social functioning while we are awake by giving rest during sleep to the parts of the brain that control emotions and social interactions.

Love Handles and Fat Gain In Men

Men who suffer with OSA often gain weight in the abdomen due to the process of age. As men age, they typically get less and less sleep. With less deep sleep or slow wave sleep there is less bodily production of the growth hormone. That deficiency is associated with increased fat tissue and abdominal obesity, reduced muscle mass and strength, and reduced exercise capacity.

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Sleepless Nights Can Cause Worse Problems Than Grumpiness

Most people take about 15 minutes to fall asleep, says researcher Thomas Roth, M.D.

Confession time: My husband has actually uttered the words "I'd rather take a nap than have sex." Is our marriage on the rocks? No, like 75 percent of adults, our problem is sleep -- he has insomnia; I snore.

We seem to be too busy to get enough sleep. On average, Americans sleep roughly 7 hours a night, 1 to 2 fewer hours per night than they did 40 years ago. And when we do hit the sack, sleep doesn't necessarily follow. No wonder my husband and I sometimes feel like zombies. Worse, there could be serious health repercussions due to our lack of shut-eye.

Do you have a sleep disorder?

How much sleep each person needs varies, though the differences may not be as great as you think, says Eve Van Cauter, Ph.D, professor of medicine at the University of Chicago. Studies have shown that sleep capacity - how long you'll sleep if you go to bed and get up whenever you want is about 8 hours and 45 minutes for healthy young males (the group that's been researched most). In three separate studies, that amount varied less than 30 minutes from person to person. "A lot of people who believe they need only 4 hours of sleep are unconsciously depriving themselves," Van Cauter says.

Most people need 7 to 8 hours a night, according to Lawrence Epstein, M.D., regional medical director for Sleep Health Centers in Boston, Massachusetts, and former president of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine.

"The idea shouldn't be to get into bed, fall asleep instantly, sleep a set number of hours, and wake up never having had your sleep disturbed," he explains. "The target should be to get an adequate amount of sleep to feel rested during the day."

How do you know you're not getting enough z's? "If you're falling asleep in 1 or 2 minutes, you're probably sleep deprived," says Thomas Roth, M.D., director of the Sleep Disorders and Research Center at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan.

On average, it takes most people about 15 minutes to fall asleep, though Roth notes that "it takes some people more time, some people less." Another way to tell if you're not sleeping enough is to monitor daytime sleepiness. Chronic daytime sleepiness is not normal, says Michael Twery, Ph.D., acting director of the National Center on Sleep Disorders Research. "People can live for decades and never appreciate that they have a sleep disorder and how it's affecting their lives."

The downside of running on empty

Scientists are finding more evidence that sleep deprivation can affect appetite, weight gain, diabetes risk, the strength of your immune system, and even your chance of developing depression.

In 2004, University of Chicago researchers restricted a group of men to only 4 hours of sleep per night. After just 2 nights, the men had an 18 percent decrease in leptin, a hormone that tells your brain when you are full, and a 28 percent increase in ghrelin, a hormone that triggers hunger. These results were reinforced last October by a study of almost 10,000 adults that found that people who slept fewer than 7 hours a night were more likely to be obese than those who got 7 hours of shut-eye. "

Chronic sleep deprivation causes changes in metabolism that produce a state that stimulates hunger," Epstein explains. Sleep deprivation can also affect how your body handles insulin; insulin resistance puts you at risk for weight gain and diabetes.

In a study that's still under way, Van Cauter and her colleagues are looking at chronic sleep loss in a group of normal-weight men and women under age 30. Over 6 months, those who slept fewer than 6.5 hours a night were more insulin-resistant than normal sleepers who logged 7.5 to 8 hours per night.

The short sleepers, the study shows so far, need to produce 30 to 40 percent more insulin to dispose of the same amount of glucose. Still other studies suggest that over time, sleep loss may play a role in the development of depression.

"Positive moods are lower in people with sleep loss," Van Cauter says, "and mood isn't stable over the 24-hour cycle. People have lower moods in the morning. They also have higher levels of cortisol, the stress hormone. All those changes are typical of clinical depression."

Whether its depression, diabetes, or a bigger dress size, the threat posed by sleep deprivation is real. Sleep disorders can be treated, but often patients fail to recognize the problem -- leading to more sleepless nights.

Restful Sleep Directly Related to Good Health

Clinical trials show that not getting enough sleep or getting poor quality sleep on a regular basis increases the risk of high blood pressure, heart disease, congestive heart failure, stroke and other medical conditions. The National Sleep Foundation reports that 70% of all congestive heart failure and 60% of all strokes is directly related to a sleep disorder.

"Virtually all heart attacks come down to a failure to deliver oxygen to the hardworking heart muscle,¹" Philip Stavish, M.D. OSA causes a drop in blood oxygen saturation (SaO₂) and an increase in the blood's carbon dioxide (CO₂). When the SaO₂ drops, the heart will start pumping more blood. With each beat, the SaO₂ continues to drop and the heart beats faster and faster. As the CO₂ increases the brain will try to drive the person to breathe. The effort and action of the abdomen and chest will increase. Eventually that action can become severe enough to cause an arousal, (but the arousal does not fully awaken the person) causing the person to "catch their breath," clearing the upper airway blockage and allowing the person to breathe. Then it happens all over again.

It is also important to remember that when the immune system is compromised by a lack of oxygen, we are more susceptible to opportunistic bacteria, viral, and parasitic infections and colds, as well as flu. Oxygen deprivation can also lead to life-threatening disease, such as cancer. Cancer and most other infections or disease cannot live in an oxygen-rich environment. "Cancer has only one prime cause. It is the replacement of normal oxygen respiration of the body's cells by an anaerobic (i.e., oxygen deficient) cell respiration²."

During sleep time, your body produces valuable hormones. Deep sleep triggers release of growth hormones which fuels growth in children and helps build muscle mass and repair cells and tissues in children and adults. Like growth hormones, *cytokine* increases during sleep and works to fight various infections. This might explain why a good nights sleep helps keep you from getting sick and shortens recover time when you do get sick.

Hormones released during sleep also affect how the body uses energy. Studies find that the less people sleep, the more likely they are to be overweight or obese, to develop diabetes, and to prefer eating foods that are high in calories and carbohydrates.

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Sleep Stages

Human sleep can be described as a succession of five recurring stages: four non-REM stages and the REM stage. A sixth stage, waking, is often included. Waking, in this context, is actually the phase during which a person falls asleep.

Waking

In this stage the body prepares for sleep. All people fall asleep with tense muscles and their eyes moving erratically. As a person becomes sleepier, the body begins to slow down, muscles relax and eye movement slows to a roll.

Stage 1

Stage 1 sleep, or drowsiness, is often described as first in the sequence. The eyes are closed during Stage 1 sleep, but if aroused from it, a person may feel as if he or she has not slept. Stage 1 may last for five to 10 minutes.

Stage 2

Stage 2 is a period of light sleep during which the heart rate slows and body temperature decreases. At this point, the body prepares to enter deep sleep.

Stages 3 AND 4

These are deep sleep stages, with Stage 4 being more intense than Stage 3. Stages 1-4 are non-REM sleep stages and lasts from 90 to 120 minutes, each stage lasting anywhere from 5 to 15 minutes. Stages 2 and 3 repeat backwards before REM sleep is attained. A normal sleep cycle has this pattern: waking, stage 1, 2, 3, 4, 3, 2, REM. Typically, REM sleep occurs approximately 90 minutes after sleep onset.

Stage 5 - REM Sleep

REM sleep is distinguishable from NREM sleep by changes in physiological states, including its characteristic rapid eye movements. Intense dreaming occurs during REM sleep as a result of heightened cerebral activity, but paralysis occurs simultaneously in the major voluntary muscle groups. It is generally thought that REM-associated muscle paralysis is meant to keep the body from acting out the dreams that occur during this intensely cerebral stage. The first period of REM typically lasts 10 minutes, with each recurring REM stage lengthening, and the final one lasting an hour.

Performance

We need restful sleep to think clearly, react quickly, and create memories. In fact, the pathways in the brain that help us learn and remember are very active when we sleep. Studies show that people who are taught mentally challenging tasks do better after a good night's sleep. Other research suggests that sleep is needed for creative problem solving.

Sleep also affects mood. Insufficient sleep can make you irritable and is linked to poor behavior and trouble with relationships, especially among children and teens. People who chronically lack sleep are also more likely to become depressed.

OSA is among the most common and most dangerous types of sleep disorders. An estimated 16% of the global population has the condition. OSA sufferers never get a "good nights sleep" because repeated arousals deprive patients of REM (deep sleep stage) leading to chronic daytime exhaustion and long-term cardiovascular stress. People who are obese are likely to have OSA due to the excess weight around the throat and neck. Those with receding chin lines are also at higher risk for developing obstructive sleep disorder.

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