Protein – Are You Getting Enough?

Why do we need protein?

- To help prevent illness and infection
- To transport nutrients to cells
- To keep organs working well
- To keep hair, skin, and nails healthy
- To build muscles and bones

Older adults need more protein because of illness and injury.

And their bodies absorb and use protein less efficiently.

How much protein you need each day depends on your weight:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body Weight</th>
<th>Grams of Protein Needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>110</td>
<td>45 – 63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>49 – 68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>130</td>
<td>53 – 74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140</td>
<td>57 – 80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>62 – 86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>160</td>
<td>66 – 91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>170</td>
<td>70 – 97</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Adults over the age of 70 have 40% less muscle mass than young adults.

### What Foods Have the Most Protein?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Grams of protein</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chicken</td>
<td>3 oz</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef</td>
<td>3 oz</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish</td>
<td>3 oz</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egg</td>
<td>1 large</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk</td>
<td>8 fl oz</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheese</td>
<td>1 oz</td>
<td>6 – 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yogurt</td>
<td>1 cup</td>
<td>8 – 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beans</td>
<td>½ cup</td>
<td>6 – 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuts</td>
<td>¼ cup</td>
<td>5 – 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tofu</td>
<td>3 oz</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasta</td>
<td>1 cup</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>¾ cup</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bread</td>
<td>1 slice</td>
<td>3 – 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Protein the healthy way:

- Use low cholesterol egg substitute
- Try loin and leg cuts of meat.
- Consume non-fat and low fat dairy foods.
- Eat skinless poultry
- Eat more cooked dried beans and peas
- Eat small amounts of nuts.
- Eat enough calories to ensure your body does not break down the proteins you eat into energy.

*If your appetite is low, eat meat and cheese– you’ll get a lot of protein with less food.*

*Or try drinking your protein in the form of milk or liquid food supplements.*
Baked Beans Cake

INGREDIENTS:
1 cup raisins
1 cup boiling water
1 19-oz can baked beans
3 eggs
1 cup canola oil
2 cups granulated sugar
2 cups flour
1 tsp baking soda
½ tsp baking powder
1 tsp cinnamon
½ teaspoon salt
1 cup chopped pecans
1 tsp vanilla extract

PREPARATION:
- Place raisins in a bowl and pour boiling water over them, set aside.
- In a large mixing bowl, mash beans with a fork.
- Add eggs, oil, and sugar – beat well.
- Combine flour, baking soda, baking powder, cinnamon and salt.
- Stir into bean mixture.
- Drain raisins and reserve liquid.
- Add raisins, nuts and vanilla to batter.
- If batter is too thick, add a little of the raisin water, stirring to combine.
- Pour mixture into a greased 13” x 9” baking pan.
- Bake at 325 degrees for approximately 1 hour or until tester inserted in center comes out clean.
- Cool in pan on a rack.
- Frost as desired.
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Dr. Scott Angle, Dean and Director