## perimenopause anti inflammatory diet

The journey through perimenopause is a significant life stage marked by hormonal shifts that can bring about a range of uncomfortable symptoms. Understanding how nutrition can play a supportive role is crucial, and a **perimenopause anti inflammatory diet** emerges as a powerful strategy to navigate these changes. This dietary approach focuses on reducing inflammation throughout the body, a common underlying factor in many perimenopausal discomforts, from mood swings and fatigue to joint pain and digestive issues. By embracing foods that calm the body's inflammatory responses and avoiding those that exacerbate them, individuals can experience improved well-being, energy levels, and hormonal balance. This comprehensive guide will delve into the principles of an anti-inflammatory diet tailored for perimenopause, explore key food groups to embrace and limit, discuss the impact of specific nutrients, and offer practical tips for implementation.

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### **Understanding Inflammation During Perimenopause**

Perimenopause, the transitional period leading up to menopause, is characterized by fluctuating estrogen and progesterone levels. These hormonal shifts can trigger a cascade of effects in the body, and one significant consequence is an increase in systemic inflammation. While acute inflammation is a necessary part of the immune response to injury or infection, chronic, low-grade inflammation is detrimental and can contribute to a wide array of symptoms experienced during perimenopause.

This elevated inflammation can manifest in various ways, often exacerbating common perimenopausal complaints. For instance, hormonal fluctuations can disrupt sleep patterns, leading to fatigue and increased stress, which in turn can fuel inflammatory pathways. Similarly, changes in metabolism and nutrient absorption during this time can make the body more susceptible to inflammatory triggers from the diet. Recognizing and addressing this underlying inflammation is a cornerstone of managing perimenopause effectively and improving overall quality of life.

## The Core Principles of a Perimenopause Anti-Inflammatory Diet

An anti-inflammatory diet for perimenopause is built on the foundation of whole, unprocessed foods that are rich in antioxidants, healthy fats, and fiber. The primary goal is to actively counteract the

inflammatory processes that can intensify during this life stage. This involves prioritizing nutrient-dense foods that provide the body with the building blocks it needs to repair and protect itself, while simultaneously minimizing exposure to compounds that promote inflammation.

At its heart, this dietary approach emphasizes a diverse intake of colorful fruits and vegetables, lean proteins, and healthy fats. It's about nourishing the body with sustained energy, supporting hormonal balance through balanced macronutrients, and providing essential micronutrients that play vital roles in cellular health and inflammation regulation. The emphasis is not on restrictive dieting but on cultivating sustainable eating habits that promote long-term well-being.

### Focus on Whole, Unprocessed Foods

The cornerstone of any anti-inflammatory diet, particularly for perimenopause, is a steadfast commitment to whole, unprocessed foods. These foods retain their natural nutrient profiles, fiber content, and beneficial phytochemicals, which are often stripped away during industrial processing. Opting for foods in their most natural state ensures that you are consuming a rich array of vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, and other compounds that work synergistically to combat inflammation and support hormonal health.

Think of your plate as a vibrant canvas showcasing nature's bounty. This means choosing fresh produce, whole grains, and minimally processed proteins over refined grains, sugary snacks, and pre-packaged meals. The simplicity of whole foods translates to a more straightforward and effective approach to reducing inflammatory load on the body during this sensitive transitional phase.

## **Balancing Macronutrients for Hormonal Support**

Achieving a balanced intake of macronutrients—carbohydrates, proteins, and fats—is critical for managing perimenopausal symptoms and supporting hormonal equilibrium. Carbohydrates should primarily be derived from complex, high-fiber sources, which help stabilize blood sugar levels and prevent sharp insulin spikes that can contribute to inflammation. Adequate protein intake is essential for satiety, muscle maintenance, and the production of vital hormones. Healthy fats, particularly omega-3 fatty acids, are potent anti-inflammatory agents and are crucial for hormone synthesis and cell membrane health.

A balanced approach ensures that the body receives sustained energy, preventing the energy crashes that can exacerbate fatigue and mood swings. By carefully calibrating the proportion of each macronutrient at every meal, individuals can create an internal environment conducive to hormonal balance and reduced inflammation, thereby alleviating many common perimenopausal discomforts.

## Foods to Embrace for an Anti-Inflammatory Diet

Incorporating a wide variety of nutrient-rich foods is fundamental to building an effective perimenopause anti-inflammatory diet. These foods are packed with compounds that actively fight inflammation, support hormonal health, and provide essential micronutrients. Focusing on these powerhouses can lead to a noticeable improvement in energy levels, mood, sleep, and overall well-

#### Fatty Fish Rich in Omega-3s

Fatty fish are superstars in an anti-inflammatory diet due to their exceptionally high content of omega-3 fatty acids, particularly EPA and DHA. These essential fats are potent inhibitors of inflammatory pathways in the body, helping to reduce the production of pro-inflammatory molecules. Regular consumption of these fish can contribute to alleviating joint pain, improving cardiovascular health, and potentially easing mood-related symptoms common in perimenopause.

Examples of excellent choices include salmon, mackerel, sardines, herring, and anchovies. Aim to include these in your diet at least two to three times per week to reap their full anti-inflammatory benefits. The versatility of these fish allows for various preparations, making it easy to integrate them into your weekly meal plan.

### **Colorful Fruits and Vegetables**

The vibrant spectrum of fruits and vegetables is a treasure trove of antioxidants, vitamins, minerals, and fiber, all of which are crucial for combating inflammation. Antioxidants, such as flavonoids and polyphenols, neutralize harmful free radicals, thereby reducing cellular damage and inflammation. Fiber, in particular, supports a healthy gut microbiome, which plays a significant role in immune function and inflammation regulation. Aim for a wide variety of colors to ensure a broad range of phytonutrients.

Key anti-inflammatory fruits and vegetables include berries (blueberries, strawberries, raspberries), leafy greens (spinach, kale, collard greens), cruciferous vegetables (broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts), tomatoes, bell peppers, sweet potatoes, and avocados. These can be enjoyed raw, steamed, roasted, or added to smoothies and stir-fries.

#### **Nuts and Seeds**

Nuts and seeds are packed with healthy fats, fiber, antioxidants, and minerals like magnesium and zinc, all of which contribute to an anti-inflammatory profile. They provide essential fatty acids, including omega-3s in certain seeds like flax and chia, and also offer plant sterols that can help manage cholesterol levels. Their satiating nature also makes them excellent snacks for maintaining stable blood sugar levels, a key factor in controlling inflammation.

Good choices include almonds, walnuts, chia seeds, flaxseeds, pumpkin seeds, and sunflower seeds. They can be consumed as snacks, added to salads, yogurt, oatmeal, or incorporated into smoothies. Ensure they are raw and unsalted to maximize their health benefits and avoid added sodium and unhealthy oils.

#### **Whole Grains**

Choosing whole grains over refined grains is a critical component of an anti-inflammatory diet. Whole grains, such as oats, quinoa, brown rice, and barley, are rich in fiber, B vitamins, and minerals. The fiber content helps to regulate blood sugar levels, preventing the inflammatory spikes associated with refined carbohydrates. Furthermore, the complex carbohydrates in whole grains provide sustained energy, which is beneficial for managing perimenopausal fatigue.

These grains serve as excellent bases for meals, providing a satisfying and nutrient-dense foundation. Incorporating them into your diet regularly can contribute to improved digestion, better blood sugar control, and a reduction in overall inflammation. Opt for products labeled "100% whole grain" to ensure you are getting the full benefits.

#### **Lean Protein Sources**

Lean protein sources are vital for satiety, muscle maintenance, and hormone production, all of which are important during perimenopause. They also tend to have a lower inflammatory impact compared to processed or red meats. Choosing high-quality, lean proteins ensures you are getting essential amino acids without excessive saturated fat or inflammatory compounds.

Excellent protein choices include chicken breast, turkey, fish (as mentioned previously), legumes (beans, lentils, chickpeas), tofu, and tempeh. These can be incorporated into meals in various ways, providing a substantial and satisfying component that supports overall health and energy levels throughout perimenopause.

### **Herbs and Spices**

Many common herbs and spices are potent anti-inflammatory powerhouses. Turmeric, ginger, cinnamon, garlic, and rosemary, among others, contain compounds that have demonstrated significant anti-inflammatory and antioxidant effects. Integrating these flavorful ingredients into your cooking can significantly boost the anti-inflammatory capacity of your meals.

For instance, curcumin in turmeric is a well-researched anti-inflammatory agent. Ginger is known for its digestive benefits and its ability to calm inflammation, while garlic possesses immune-boosting and anti-inflammatory properties. Regularly seasoning your food with these can have a cumulative positive impact on reducing inflammation.

## Foods to Limit or Avoid for an Anti-Inflammatory Diet

While focusing on beneficial foods is essential, equally important is understanding and reducing the intake of foods that can actively promote inflammation within the body, particularly during the hormonal fluctuations of perimenopause. Minimizing these inflammatory triggers can significantly improve symptoms and support overall well-being.

#### **Processed Foods and Refined Sugars**

Processed foods and refined sugars are major contributors to inflammation. They are typically low in nutrients and fiber, and high in unhealthy fats, sodium, and artificial additives. The rapid digestion of refined sugars leads to blood sugar spikes and subsequent crashes, which can trigger inflammatory responses and disrupt hormonal balance. Processed items often contain trans fats and excessive omega-6 fatty acids, which are pro-inflammatory.

Common culprits include sugary drinks, pastries, white bread, packaged snacks, breakfast cereals, and fast food. Replacing these with whole, unprocessed alternatives is a crucial step in creating an anti-inflammatory eating pattern for perimenopause.

#### **Unhealthy Fats: Trans and Excessive Omega-6**

Certain types of fats are detrimental to inflammation levels. Trans fats, often found in partially hydrogenated oils, are highly inflammatory and should be completely avoided. While some omega-6 fatty acids are essential, an imbalance in the ratio of omega-6 to omega-3 fatty acids can promote inflammation. Modern diets often have a disproportionately high intake of omega-6s, largely from vegetable oils used in processed foods.

Limiting your intake of fried foods, baked goods made with shortening, margarine, and many commercially prepared snacks is key. Opt for healthier cooking oils rich in monounsaturated and omega-3 fats, such as olive oil, avocado oil, and canola oil, in moderation.

#### **Excessive Alcohol Consumption**

While moderate alcohol consumption may have some debated benefits, excessive intake can significantly contribute to inflammation. Alcohol is metabolized in the liver, and its breakdown products can induce oxidative stress and inflammatory responses throughout the body. For women in perimenopause, alcohol can also exacerbate hot flashes, disrupt sleep, and negatively impact mood.

It is advisable to limit alcohol intake or abstain altogether, especially if you are experiencing significant perimenopausal symptoms. If you choose to drink, do so in moderation and be mindful of its impact on your body.

#### **Red and Processed Meats**

While lean meats can be part of a healthy diet, red and processed meats are often higher in saturated fat and can contain compounds that promote inflammation when consumed in excess. Processed meats, such as bacon, sausages, and deli meats, also often contain nitrates and other additives that can be inflammatory. The way these meats are cooked at high temperatures can also generate compounds linked to inflammation.

Moderating your intake of red meat and significantly reducing or eliminating processed meats is a wise strategy. When consuming red meat, opt for lean cuts and enjoy them less frequently.

## **Key Nutrients for Perimenopause and Inflammation**

Certain nutrients play a particularly vital role in mitigating inflammation and supporting the body through the changes of perimenopause. Ensuring adequate intake of these micronutrients can profoundly impact symptom management and overall health.

#### **Omega-3 Fatty Acids**

As previously highlighted, omega-3 fatty acids are potent anti-inflammatory agents. They work by suppressing the production of inflammatory cytokines and enzymes. These essential fats are crucial for brain health, mood regulation, and reducing joint stiffness, all common concerns during perimenopause. Since the body cannot produce them on its own, they must be obtained through diet or supplementation.

Excellent dietary sources include fatty fish, flaxseeds, chia seeds, and walnuts. If dietary intake is insufficient, a high-quality fish oil or algae-based omega-3 supplement may be considered.

#### **Magnesium**

Magnesium is a mineral involved in over 300 biochemical reactions in the body, including those related to inflammation and stress response. Low magnesium levels have been linked to increased inflammation, muscle cramps, anxiety, and sleep disturbances – all of which can be prevalent during perimenopause. Adequate magnesium can help regulate blood sugar, support bone health, and promote relaxation.

Rich sources of magnesium include leafy green vegetables, nuts, seeds, whole grains, and dark chocolate. A magnesium supplement may be beneficial if dietary intake is consistently low.

#### **Antioxidants (Vitamins C, E, Selenium)**

Antioxidants are vital for neutralizing free radicals, which are unstable molecules that can damage cells and contribute to inflammation. Vitamins C and E, along with the mineral selenium, are powerful antioxidants that work synergistically to protect the body from oxidative stress. Vitamin C supports the immune system and collagen production, while Vitamin E protects cell membranes. Selenium is crucial for thyroid function and acts as a potent antioxidant.

Good sources of Vitamin C include citrus fruits, berries, bell peppers, and leafy greens. Vitamin E is found in nuts, seeds, and vegetable oils. Selenium is abundant in Brazil nuts, fish, eggs, and whole grains.

#### **Fiber**

Dietary fiber is fundamental for digestive health and plays a significant role in reducing inflammation. It acts as a prebiotic, feeding beneficial gut bacteria, which in turn produce short-

chain fatty acids that have anti-inflammatory properties. Fiber also aids in blood sugar regulation and helps remove waste products from the body, further contributing to a cleaner internal environment.

Ensuring a high intake of fiber from fruits, vegetables, whole grains, legumes, nuts, and seeds is a simple yet highly effective strategy for an anti-inflammatory diet during perimenopause.

## Practical Tips for Implementing an Anti-Inflammatory Diet

Adopting an anti-inflammatory diet during perimenopause doesn't have to be overwhelming. By focusing on gradual, sustainable changes and practical strategies, you can effectively integrate these principles into your daily life.

#### **Meal Planning and Preparation**

Taking the time for meal planning and preparation is a cornerstone of successful dietary changes. When healthy options are readily available, you are far less likely to reach for processed or inflammatory foods. Dedicate time each week to plan your meals, create a grocery list based on your plan, and consider doing some prep work in advance.

This could involve washing and chopping vegetables, cooking grains in batches, or preparing lean proteins. Having pre-portioned snacks on hand also makes it easier to make nutritious choices when hunger strikes between meals. This proactive approach reduces stress and ensures you stay on track even during busy periods.

### **Reading Food Labels**

Becoming a savvy label reader is essential for identifying hidden inflammatory ingredients. Pay close attention to the ingredient list for refined sugars, unhealthy fats (hydrogenated oils, trans fats), artificial sweeteners, and excessive sodium. Look for foods with short ingredient lists composed of whole, recognizable items.

Understanding terms like "partially hydrogenated oils" (a sign of trans fats) and recognizing various names for added sugars can empower you to make informed decisions. Prioritize foods with ingredients you can pronounce and understand.

#### **Mindful Eating and Portion Control**

Practicing mindful eating goes hand-in-hand with an anti-inflammatory diet. This involves paying attention to your hunger and fullness cues, eating slowly, and savoring your food. Mindful eating can help prevent overeating and improve digestion, both of which can have a positive impact on inflammation.

Coupled with mindful eating, practicing portion control ensures that you are consuming appropriate amounts of food. This helps manage calorie intake and prevents the digestive strain that can sometimes accompany overconsumption, indirectly supporting a less inflammatory internal state.

#### **Gradual Introduction of Changes**

Instead of attempting a complete overhaul of your diet overnight, focus on introducing changes gradually. This makes the transition more sustainable and less daunting. Begin by incorporating one or two new anti-inflammatory foods each week or by removing one processed item at a time.

For example, you might start by adding a serving of leafy greens to your lunch every day or by swapping out sugary snacks for a handful of nuts. Small, consistent steps build momentum and lead to lasting healthy habits without feeling overwhelming or restrictive.

## **Hydration and Gut Health in Perimenopause**

Adequate hydration and a healthy gut microbiome are often overlooked yet critically important components of managing perimenopause and reducing inflammation. These two factors are intrinsically linked and play a significant role in overall well-being.

### The Importance of Water Intake

Staying well-hydrated is fundamental for virtually every bodily function, including detoxification, nutrient transport, and maintaining healthy skin. During perimenopause, adequate water intake can help alleviate symptoms such as fatigue, headaches, and dry skin. Dehydration can also exacerbate feelings of anxiety and irritability. Water helps flush out toxins and supports the optimal functioning of all bodily systems, including those involved in regulating inflammation.

Aim to drink at least eight 8-ounce glasses of water per day, and more if you are active or in a hot climate. Herbal teas, especially those with anti-inflammatory properties like ginger or chamomile, can also contribute to your fluid intake.

#### **Nourishing Your Gut Microbiome**

The gut microbiome, the trillions of bacteria and other microorganisms residing in your digestive tract, plays a pivotal role in immune function and inflammation. A healthy, diverse microbiome can help regulate the immune system and produce beneficial compounds, while an imbalanced microbiome (dysbiosis) can contribute to increased inflammation and a weakened immune response.

To support a healthy gut, focus on consuming a diet rich in fiber from fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, as these act as prebiotics, feeding beneficial bacteria. Incorporating fermented foods like yogurt (with live and active cultures), kefir, sauerkraut, and kimchi can also introduce beneficial probiotics directly into your system. Conversely, minimizing processed foods, refined sugars, and

## **Beyond Diet: Lifestyle Factors Supporting an Anti-Inflammatory Approach**

While a perimenopause anti-inflammatory diet is a powerful tool, it is most effective when integrated into a holistic lifestyle that supports overall health and well-being. Addressing other lifestyle factors can amplify the benefits of your dietary choices and contribute to a more balanced and resilient you.

### **Stress Management Techniques**

Chronic stress is a significant driver of inflammation in the body. During perimenopause, hormonal fluctuations can already increase stress sensitivity, making stress management even more crucial. Engaging in regular stress-reducing activities can help lower cortisol levels and mitigate their inflammatory impact. Finding what works best for you is key.

Effective stress management techniques include meditation, deep breathing exercises, yoga, spending time in nature, engaging in hobbies, and practicing progressive muscle relaxation. Prioritizing self-care and carving out time for these activities is not a luxury but a necessity for hormonal balance and reduced inflammation.

#### **Regular Physical Activity**

Consistent, moderate physical activity is a powerful anti-inflammatory agent. Exercise helps reduce inflammatory markers, improve insulin sensitivity, promote healthy weight management, and boost mood through the release of endorphins. The benefits extend to cardiovascular health, bone density, and improved sleep guality – all critical considerations during perimenopause.

Aim for a combination of aerobic exercise (like brisk walking, swimming, or cycling) and strength training. Listen to your body and choose activities that you enjoy to ensure long-term adherence. Even short bursts of movement throughout the day can make a difference.

#### **Prioritizing Quality Sleep**

Sleep is a fundamental restorative process, and its disruption during perimenopause can significantly exacerbate inflammation and hormonal imbalances. Chronic sleep deprivation impairs the body's ability to regulate inflammation and can increase stress hormones. Establishing healthy sleep hygiene is therefore paramount.

Create a regular sleep schedule, ensure your bedroom is dark, quiet, and cool, and avoid screens for at least an hour before bedtime. Limiting caffeine and alcohol, especially in the afternoon and evening, can also contribute to better sleep quality. If sleep disturbances persist, consult with a healthcare professional.

#### The Role of Social Connection and Joy

The impact of positive social connections and engaging in joyful activities on overall health and inflammation cannot be overstated. Strong social support networks can buffer the effects of stress and contribute to a greater sense of well-being. Engaging in activities that bring you happiness and fulfillment also positively impacts stress hormones and can have an anti-inflammatory effect.

Nurturing relationships with loved ones, participating in community activities, and making time for hobbies and passions are essential aspects of a balanced, anti-inflammatory lifestyle. These elements contribute to emotional resilience and a greater capacity to navigate the challenges of perimenopause with grace and vitality.

# Q: What are the primary benefits of an anti-inflammatory diet for perimenopause?

A: The primary benefits of an anti-inflammatory diet for perimenopause include reducing symptoms like hot flashes, mood swings, fatigue, and joint pain, improving sleep quality, supporting hormonal balance, and promoting overall well-being and vitality during this transitional life stage.

# Q: How does inflammation contribute to perimenopause symptoms?

A: Fluctuating hormone levels during perimenopause can increase systemic inflammation. This inflammation can exacerbate common symptoms by disrupting neurotransmitter function (affecting mood), increasing pain sensitivity, contributing to fatigue, and impacting metabolic processes.

## Q: Can a perimenopause anti-inflammatory diet help with weight management during this time?

A: Yes, an anti-inflammatory diet can significantly aid in weight management during perimenopause. By focusing on whole foods, fiber, and healthy fats, it helps stabilize blood sugar, reduce cravings, increase satiety, and improve metabolism, all of which are crucial for managing the weight changes that can occur during this phase.

# Q: What are the most important anti-inflammatory foods to include for perimenopause?

A: Key anti-inflammatory foods include fatty fish rich in omega-3s (salmon, mackerel), colorful fruits and vegetables (berries, leafy greens), nuts and seeds (walnuts, chia seeds), whole grains (oats, quinoa), legumes, and herbs and spices like turmeric and ginger.

### Q: Are there specific foods that should be strictly avoided on a

### perimenopause anti-inflammatory diet?

A: Yes, it is recommended to strictly limit or avoid processed foods, refined sugars, unhealthy fats (trans fats, excessive omega-6s), excessive alcohol consumption, and red and processed meats, as these can promote inflammation.

## Q: How can I realistically incorporate an anti-inflammatory diet into my busy life?

A: Realistic incorporation involves meal planning and preparation, reading food labels to make informed choices, practicing mindful eating and portion control, and gradually introducing changes rather than attempting an overhaul. Prioritizing whole, unprocessed foods is the guiding principle.

# Q: Does gut health play a role in an anti-inflammatory diet for perimenopause?

A: Absolutely. Nourishing the gut microbiome with fiber-rich foods (prebiotics) and fermented foods (probiotics) is crucial. A healthy gut microbiome helps regulate the immune system and can produce anti-inflammatory compounds, significantly supporting overall well-being during perimenopause.

# Q: Can supplements help support an anti-inflammatory diet during perimenopause?

A: While a whole-foods diet is primary, certain supplements like omega-3 fatty acids, magnesium, and antioxidants (Vitamins C, E, selenium) can help fill nutritional gaps and further support anti-inflammatory efforts, especially if dietary intake is insufficient. Always consult a healthcare professional before starting any new supplement regimen.

#### Perimenopause Anti Inflammatory Diet

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perimenopause anti inflammatory diet: Moody Bitches Julie Holland, 2016-02-09 As women, we learn from an early age that our moods are a problem. To succeed in life, we are told, we must have it all under control: we have to tamp down our inherent shifts in favor of a more static way of being. But our bodies are wiser than we imagine. Moods are not an annoyance to be stuffed away, they are a finely-tuned feedback system that can tell us how best to manage our lives. Our changing moods let us know when our bodies are primed to tackle different challenges and when we should be alert to developing problems. They help us select the right tool for each of our many jobs. If we deny our emotionality, we deny the breadth of our talents. With the right care of our inherently dynamic bodies, we can master our moods to avail ourselves of this great natural strength. Yet millions of American women are medicating away their emotions because our culture says that moodiness is a problem to be fixed. Over-prescribed medications can have devastating consequences for women in many areas of our lives—and even if we don't pop a pill, women everywhere are numbing their emotions with food, alcohol, and a host of addictive behaviors that deny the wisdom of our bodies and keep us from addressing the real issues that we face. Here, Dr. Julie Holland shares a better way.—From publisher description.

healthier and happier life, and make a positive difference for yourself and your loved ones, using time-tested techniques that anyone can access. You will learn how to identify and manage stress, understand how sleep affects our hormones, the role of exercise in our lives, and the importance of maintaining positive social connections for our mental health. There is dietary support, which draws on the science and power of plant-based nutrition to offer Menopause Menus - dozens of easy, delicious, and nourishing plant-based recipes for breakfast, main meals, and snacks from Nitu's kitchen with a shopping plan, and health insights for each dish. Each lifestyle pillar chapter concludes with a Menopause Mantra: a summary, a list of the top self-help tips to implement and a positive affirmation that is tied to that chapter. Finding Me In Menopause is an inclusive, non-pharmaceutical, holistic program that takes into account the needs of all women, from all backgrounds, removing the barriers that might stop you seeking support and giving you straightforward, achievable lifestyle-based strategies that will make a huge difference to your wellbeing.

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common hormonal symptoms and commiseration with weight gain challenges, especially from a physician with similar struggles, is likely a rare and comforting experience for many women."—Forbes Health Why is the scale moving in the wrong direction even though I haven't changed my diet or exercise habits? Time and again, this is the question Dr. Mary Claire Haver's patients asked. At first, a practicing OB/GYN, she'd dutifully advise what she'd been taught in medical school: eat less and work out more. But that standard advice didn't solve the problems caused by perimenopause and menopause because back then she—and so many other doctors—hadn't taken into account the physiological factors affecting women. They tend to store fat, they can have a hard time accessing that stored fat as active fuel, and their hormonal fluctuations in midlife exacerbate the situation. Then, Dr. Haver found herself in this exact predicament with the added issues of low energy, hot flashes, and brain fog. So she set out to develop a nutrition program that would meet her own and her patients' needs once and for all. Now, more than 100,000 women have found success in Dr. Haver's unique plan for losing dangerous belly fat and reducing menopausal symptoms by following her three interconnected strategies: • Fuel Refocus: Starting in their thirties, women need a specific ratio of healthy fats, lean protein, and quality carbohydrates to optimize their overall health and efficiently burn fat as fuel. • Intermittent Fasting: 16 hours of fasting with a flexible 8-hour eating window coaxes the body to draw energy from stored fat and decreases inflammation. • Anti-inflammatory Nutrition: Limit added sugars, processed carbs, chemical additives and preservatives and layer in anti-inflammatory foods like leafy greens, olive oil, berries, nuts, and tomatoes. With these three principles working together, women can lose the weight they tend to gain in middle age as well as enjoy newfound energy, better sleep, less brain fog, and fewer hot flashes. Featuring forty delicious recipes, six weeks of easy-to-follow meal plans, shopping lists, and success stories of women who have changed their lives on this lifestyle plan, The Galveston Diet—named for Dr. Haver's hometown—will revolutionize the conversation around health and empowerment during menopause and perimenopause, with health benefits that last a lifetime.

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perimenopause and menopause. These symptoms—what Dr. Vonda Wright refers to as the musculoskeletal syndrome of menopause—can often set us up for osteoporosis, osteopenia, broken bones, increasingly limited mobility, and reduced independence later in life. That trend stops now. Unbreakable outlines a new and direct path to protecting ourselves against this too-common fate. Drawing on her decades of experience as a pioneering orthopedic surgeon helping women at all fitness levels to repair their bones and regain strength, Dr. Wright gives clear action steps to shield us from the timebombs of aging in four critical categories: Exercise: Pinpointing the right combination of cardio and resistance training for you to aid in tissue regeneration and improve metabolic function. Nutrition: What to eat to extinguish inflammation, repopulate your gut biome, and support strong bones and muscle growth. Lifestyle: How to manage chronic stress, get more restorative sleep, and turn down systemic inflammation in your daily life. Supplements: What to take to target the elimination of "zombie cells" and improve your cell function. Including a six-week, master exercise protocol to jumpstart skeletal and muscular strength, critical information about baseline blood and mobility tests that will help you understand your current health state, and twenty easy, anti-inflammatory recipes, Unbreakable is an invaluable guide to adding more vibrantly healthy life to your years.

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look younger, improve your health, or just feel great, you'll see fast results by following Dr. Perricone's simple program. These seven indispensable secrets will keep you beautiful, healthy, and young all through life.

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postpartum challenges.

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