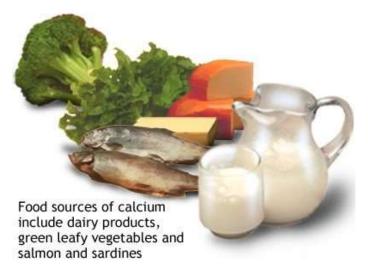
Things Your Body Needs as You Age

Calcium

With age, you can start to lose more of this mineral than you absorb. That can make your bones break more easily (osteoporosis), especially for women after menopause.

Calcium helps your muscles, nerves, cells, and blood vessels work right. You get most of it from your bones, which get it from food. Milk, yogurt, and cheese are good sources.



Vitamin B12

It helps make blood and nerve cells. You get it naturally from animal foods like meat, fish, eggs, and dairy. "B12-fortified" foods, like breakfast cereal, are other sources. Up to 30% of people over 50 have atrophic gastritis, which makes it harder for their body to absorb it from foods. Antacids, some meds (like Metformin) and weight loss surgery can contribute to a lack of B12.



Vitamin D

Your body needs Vit D to absorb calcium. Vit D also helps your muscles, nerves, and immune system work right. Most people get some vitamin D from sunlight. But your body is less able to convert sun's rays to vitamin D as you age. It's harder to get this vitamin from foods, but fatty fish, eggs (especially yolks), liver, and fortified foods like milk, yogurt, and breakfast cereals. are a good source.



Omega-3s

These fatty acids are called "essential" because your body can't make them. They're important for your eyes, brain, and sperm cells. They also could help protect against age-related disease like Alzheimer's, arthritis, and macular degeneration, which can cause blindness. Unless your doctor says otherwise, it's best to get your omega-3s from food like fatty fish, walnuts, canola oil, or flaxseed.



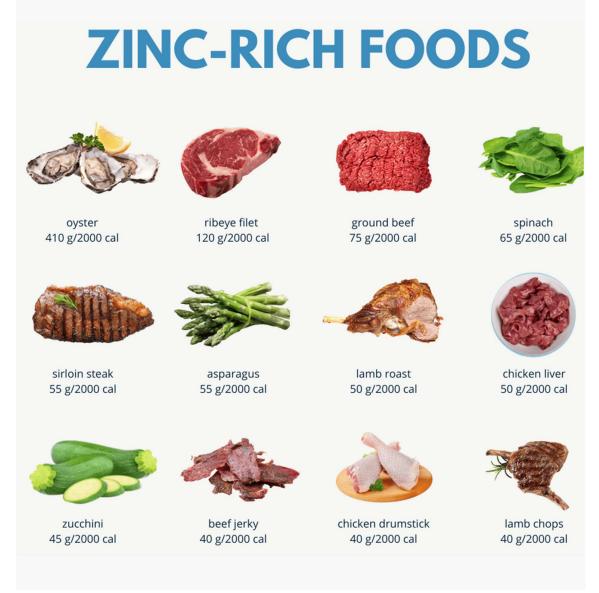
Magnesium

Magnesium can help improve mood, sleep, exercise performance, blood sugar regulation, and protein synthesis. You can get it from nuts, seeds leafy greens, and fruits like banana & Avocado. However older people tend to eat less of these plus they're more likely to have long-term health conditions or take many medications, both of which may lead to deficiency of magnesium.



Zinc

Many Indians seniors don't get enough of this underappreciated micronutrient. It improves your immunity, helps your sense of smell and taste and helps in fighting infections and inflammation. Zinc is also important for our vision. Oysters are far and away the best source of this mineral. Otherwise, you can get it from beef, crab, and fortified breakfast cereals.



Fiber

You probably know fiber is good for you. But did you know it's even more important as you age? Fiber helps protect against strokes, helps you poop more regularly, and lowers your cholesterol and blood sugar -- big benefits in older bodies. Women over

50 should get at least 21 grams a day, while men need 30 grams, but most people don't get that much. That's equal to about 6-8 servings of whole grains, or 8-10 servings of vegetables.



Where to Get Them

Whether it's vitamins, minerals, or fiber, it's best to get them from foods instead of pills. But that can be a challenge for some older people, especially if you don't eat a balanced diet.

If you think you need more than you can get from food, talk to your doctor about supplements that will be safe with your meds, diet, and health.

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