



FREE TO TAKE HOME!

JUNE - JULY 2017 EDITION



Be Wary of Croup



Wee Problem, Big Solutions



Heartburn in Pregnancy



Dizzy Days

YOUR NEXT APPOINTMENT:

ENJOY THIS FREE NEWSLETTER

Please remember that decisions about medical care should be made in consultation with your health care provider so discuss with your doctor before acting on any of the information.
 www.healthnews.net.au

● PRACTICE DOCTORS

Dr Maureen McKeown
 Family Medicine, Obstetric Shared Care,
 Children's & Women's Health

Dr Andrew Harris
 Minor Surgery, Sports Medicine, Diving
 Medicine, Authorised Aviation Medicals

Dr Jackie Judd
 Children's Health, Obstetric Shared Care,
 Family Medicine

Dr Emma Pearce
 Women's Health, Child Health

Dr Jean Harding
 Minor Surgery, Child Health, Family Medicine

Dr Andrew Leaver
 Family Medicine, Minor Surgery

Dr Katrina Denison
 Family medicine, Obstetric shared care,
 Women's & Children's Health.
 Speaks Czechoslovakian

Dr Grant Russell
 Family Medicine, Child health, Minor Surgery

● ALLIED HEALTH STAFF

Dr Jenina Cotton - DMD.
 Dentist

Ms Julia Nicholson
 Dental Assistant/Practice Manager

Ms Sally Green
 Physiotherapist - Available Mondays &
 Thursdays

Ms Hara Syros
 Psychologist

● PRACTICE STAFF

Practice Manager:
 Linda McParland

Practice Nurses:
 Catherine Morrison &
 Charmaine Bonifacio

Receptionists:
 Sam, Montana, Helen, Kate & Melissa

● SURGERY HOURS

Monday to Friday 8.00 am to 6.30 pm
 Saturday morning .. 9.00 am to 12.30 pm
 Sunday morning..... 9.00 am to 11.00 am
 All Public Holidays CLOSED

● AFTER HOURS & EMERGENCY

Please phone the locum service on **9429 5677** for the doctor on call.
 Dial **000** and ask for an ambulance in case of a medical emergency.

● SPECIAL PRACTICE NOTES

Travel Vaccinations and Advice. We are accredited to offer full travel health advice and a full vaccination service at your convenience

Fibreglass Plasters. Our clinic is able to offer you the convenience of fibreglass plastering for your uncomplicated fractures. Please make an appointment to discuss this service.

Referrals. Doctors in this practice are competent at handling common health problems. When necessary, they can use opinions from specialists. You can discuss this openly with your doctor.

Telephone advice. Most problems are best dealt with in consultation. A doctor is available during normal surgery hours for emergency advice. Our staff are experienced in deciding the appropriate response to any phone request.

Reminder system. Because our practice is committed to preventive care, we may send you an occasional reminder regarding health services appropriate to your care. If you wish to opt out of this, please let us know.

Test results. To obtain the results of any tests, please make a further appointment with your Doctor. Please ask the doctor at the time of your appointment how long it will take for these results to be received by the clinic so that a convenient appointment time can be made. To maintain confidentiality, results will not be given over the phone except in special circumstances.

● BILLING ARRANGEMENTS

We are a private billing practice. Children 12 and under are bulk billed.

Information about our fees and services are available at reception.

Payment at the time of consultation is required. Payment can be made by cash, cheque, credit card or EFTPOS.

● APPOINTMENTS

Consultation is by appointment. Urgent cases are seen on the day.

Home Visits. If you require a home visit for special reasons, please request this first thing in the morning. Visits are at the doctor's discretion for patients within a 5 km radius.

Booking a long appointment is important for more complex problems – insurance medical, health review, counselling, a second opinion, etc. This may involve a longer wait. Please bring all relevant information.



▷ Please see the Rear Cover for more practice information.

Wee Problem, Big Solutions

Being unable to control the bladder remains silent because most people don't talk about it. Yet it affects about 13% of Australians.

Severity ranges. Stress incontinence is when urine leaks in response to (for example) movement or any pressure in the pelvis. Urge incontinence is when you need to go to the toilet quickly or else!

Many people don't raise the issue of incontinence with their GP because they are embarrassed or believe it is "a normal part of life" or nothing can be done. Let's be clear. It is not a normal part of ageing, you do not need to be embarrassed and there are ways to prevent and manage it.

Risk factors include pregnancy, obesity, recurrent urinary infections, certain types of surgery (e.g. prostate), constipation and some medications. Step one is to raise the issue with your GP. Some tests may need to be done to rule out contributing medical causes (e.g. diabetes). You may need referral to someone who specialises in this area or be sent for urodynamic testing (to test bladder function).

General helpful tips include spreading fluid intake through the day (and cutting back on alcohol and caffeine), doing regular exercise, and maintaining a healthy weight.

For women after childbirth, pelvic floor exercises are critical. Talk to your GP or physio about this. Once any predisposing things are excluded or treated, bladder training is very effective. Programs are run through Continence Australia and some physiotherapists. In the short-term, planning your day is helpful. There are also products to help you get around the problem.

The most important step is the first one – raise it with your GP. ■



Help at Hand for Dementia

Dementia scares many people about getting older. Alzheimer's is most common and affects over 400,000 Australians with that number increasing. It is now the second leading cause of death of Australians and the single greatest cause of disability in over 65s. Over half of those in residential care have dementia.

Risk factors include age, family history, being a smoker and excess alcohol use. There is no absolute prevention but research suggests that healthy eating, regular exercise and keeping the brain active may help reduce the chances of dementia. There is no cure and medications can, at best, only slow progress.

Your doctor probably has a standardised questionnaire for detecting dementia, if you are curious.

An ageing population is increasing the absolute numbers of Alzheimer's disease but rates are actually declining! Figures from the USA and UK show that the proportion of those over 65 years with the



condition, fell by about 25% over the 15 years to 2013. (Australian figures are likely to be similar.)

We do know that dementia affects surrounding family and friends, who often become carers too. Support for them is at hand and with early diagnosis, comes better long-term planning. Talk to your GP about what services can assist you and your family. ■

Questions for home

- What female hormone predisposes to reflux in pregnancy?
- How would you distinguish a seizure from a simple faint?
- Can dementia be treated and screened for?
- Is Croup a viral or bacterial infection?



Be Wary of Croup

Croup is a viral infection of the throat and windpipe (trachea) and typically affects children under five years though children up to eight years can contract it. The hallmark symptom is a harsh, dry, barking cough, mostly at night.

Croup generally starts with a 'cold-like' runny nose, cough and perhaps a low-grade fever. The symptoms that distinguish croup from a cold are noisy breathing (stridor), the harsh barking cough, and a hoarse voice. In severe cases, if there is difficulty breathing, seek urgent medical attention.

Most cases of croup are mild and need only symptom relief. Croup is viral so antibiotics do not help. Simply comfort your child (it can be scary for small children) and make sure they take adequate fluids. You can use paracetamol or ibuprofen for sore throat or fever as needed (according to weight and directions on the bottle). Traditionally, a vaporiser to humidify the surrounding air was advised but perhaps not these days.

If there is no improvement, or if you have any concerns, see your GP. In more severe cases, a short course of steroid can be effective. There is no specific way to prevent croup apart from general hygiene measures. ■



For the Fainthearted

People may feel dizzy or pass out for many different reasons. Some matter, most don't.

A true faint (vaso-vagal episode) leads to brief unconsciousness because blood pressure drops, blood vessels dilate, or the heart rate slows. When blood pressure to the brain is not maintained we lose consciousness, usually for only a few seconds, go pale, and perhaps feel a bit unwell for a time afterwards. Some people will go through life never fainting whereas others are prone to it.

Risk factors for fainting include prolonged standing, extreme heat (leading to dehydration), stress or emotional distress, intense pain and certain medications. Typical lead-up symptoms are a feeling of anxiety, nausea and feeling

lightheaded. At this point it is best to sit or lie down but realistically events often overtake you and you find yourself on the floor.

After a faint you have full memory of events and there is no true convulsing but sometimes jerky movements may lead an experienced person to ask further questions to rule out a seizure. Recovery is usually quick if the person can lie flat and elevate their legs above the level of the heart.

It is important to consult your GP if you suffer faints. While the condition is, of itself, harmless (excluding the potential for injury when falling), it is important to exclude other reasons for loss of consciousness. Your doctor will do a physical examination and may recommend blood tests. ■

Heartburn in Pregnancy

Reflux – or gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (GORD) as doctors call it – occurs when acid from the stomach goes up the gullet (or oesophagus) and causes symptoms.

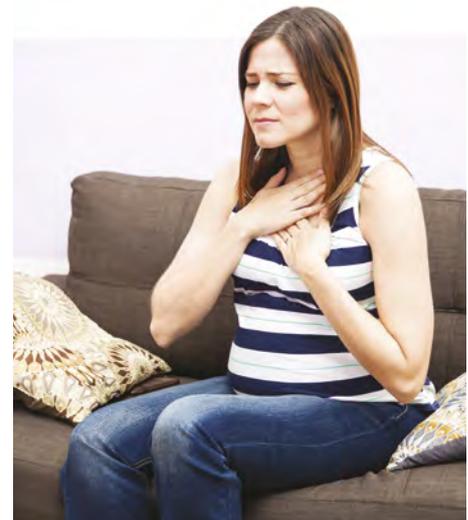
The lining of the stomach is designed to cope with acid (which we need to digest food) but the oesophagus lining is not. The typical symptom is a burning sensation in the lower chest or upper abdomen – hence the name heartburn. The pain can be mild to severe and most people get it at some point in their lives.

Pregnancy can bring on or aggravate reflux. In pregnancy, the hormone relaxin is produced to "relax" joints and ligaments and ease the

delivery but it can also slow digestion and relax the sphincter that prevents acid rising. And, as the baby grows, pressure in the stomach increases, which can also predispose to acid reflux.

So what can help?

Not smoking and avoiding alcohol help (no-no's in pregnancy anyway!). Eat smaller meals more frequently. Avoid those foods you know bring on reflux (unfortunately no one-size-fits-all here, however, carbonated drinks, caffeine, acidic and spicy food are common culprits). Avoid eating for at least three hours before going to bed. Antacids can be used but discuss this with your doctor. ■



CHICKEN & LEEK SOUP



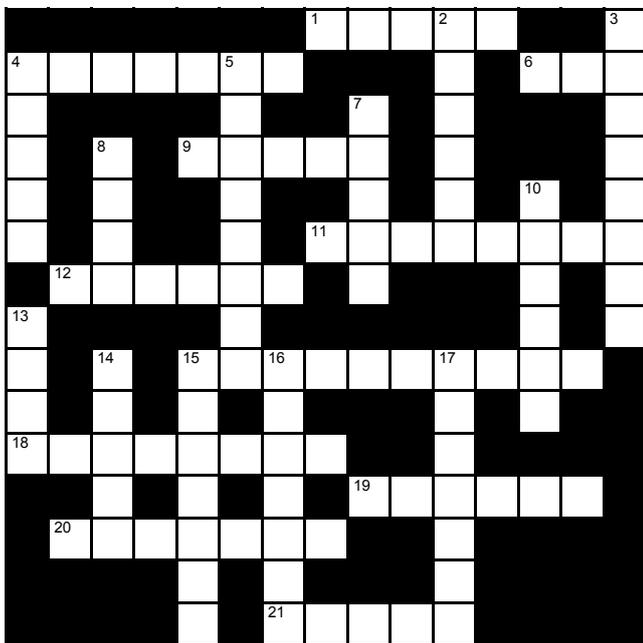
Ingredients:

- 8 chicken drumsticks or a small whole chicken
- 3 carrots peeled & diced
- 3 celery stalks diced
- ½ brown onion roughly diced
- ½ bunch parsley, plus extra, to serve
- 30ml olive oil
- 2 leeks trimmed & finely sliced
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- 1tspn dried tarragon
- 2 large potatoes unpeeled & diced
- ½ cup risoni
- Squeeze of lemon juice also enhances the flavour – your choice.

Method:

1. Place chicken, 1 carrot, celery stick and onion in a large saucepan and cover with water. Bring to the boil and then reduce heat to low and simmer for 1½ hours, until chicken meat falls from the bones.
2. Strain broth and set aside. Remove meat from chicken and discard skin and bones. Shred the chicken meat and set aside.
3. Heat oil in a large saucepan on medium heat. Add leek and garlic and cook for 4-5 minutes until softened. Stir in remaining carrot, celery and tarragon. Add potato and cook for 5 mins. Add risoni and reserved broth and bring to boil. Reduce heat to low and simmer for 15 mins. Add reserved chicken meat and simmer for another 5 mins until risoni is cooked and soup thickens.
4. Serve in bowls and sprinkle with chopped parsley or fresh tarragon.

CROSSWORD



Across

1. What we do when our blood pressure drops
4. Organ that holds urine
6. To come of ...
9. A high temperature
11. Tough tissue connecting body parts.

12. Bones connecting legs and spine.
15. Another word for the gullet
18. The problem where there is a lack of insulin
19. ___(6) are where body parts bend

20. Noisy breathing
21. A false feeling of moving

Down

2. Going to vomit
3. ___ (8) brings on memory loss in older people
4. What we bleed!
5. ___ (8) maintains physical and mental fitness
7. The ___ (5) is our thinking organ
8. You breathe through
10. Another word for heartburn
13. Made by the stomach
14. Pumps blood
15. BMI greater than 30
16. Anti-inflammatory drug
17. A feeling of worry

OTHER SERVICES

- Dorevitch Pathology (8.30am – 4.00pm)
- Nursing home and hospital visits.
- Sports physiotherapy.
- Stress Management & Relationship Counselling.

Practice professionals are experienced in the broad range of health problems affecting all age groups. The practice is fully accredited to national standards.

SPECIAL PRACTICE NOTES

Medical record confidentiality.

This practice protects your personal health information to ensure it is only available to authorised staff members for the intended purposes and to comply with the Privacy Act. Please read our Confidentiality Statement and make sure we have your signature scanned into your Medical File.

Your comments on our medical services are always welcome. We strive to improve for your benefit.

Please direct any queries or complaints to the Practice Manager. manager@sandringhammedical.com.au
 If you wish, you can register your complaint with the Health Services Commissioner T: (61 3) 8601 5200, Email: hsc@health.vic.gov.au, 30th Floor, 570 Bourke Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

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