

What's with the Coconut Oil?

This is the first in a 2 part series on consuming coconut oil and coconut products. While this article addresses the “why?” the next article will be the “how”.



For balanced energy, blood sugar and health

One of the primary things I suggest for my clients (and family and friends) to consider is adding coconut oil into their lifestyle. The reason is 2-fold. First and foremost we have got to get those toxic vegetable oils out of our diets. We were told they were good for us because of the polyunsaturates, right? However, [the truth was skewed](#) to benefit the edible oil industry. The [process by which they are made](#) is downright scary. Vegetable oils (i.e. corn, soy, canola, etc) become even more toxic when they are heated. These oils, as well as margarine, were NEVER good for us, but their sale is good for market share. Unfortunately, what is on TV and in the media does not have to be the truth, it just has to make money.

The second reason is the plethora of benefits the human body can gain from consuming coconut oil (orally and through the skin). Read on.

From Sally Fallon's foundational *Nourishing Traditions – The Cookbook that Challenges Politically Correct Nutrition and the*

Diet Dictocrats we learn how oils like coconut and palm have protected third world tropical communities from fungus and bacteria in their food supply for generations. As more recent generations have switched to poly-unsaturated vegetable oils, the incidence of intestinal disorders has increased. This is because coconut oil is chalked full of medium chain fatty acids (also called medium chain triglycerides) like lauric acid which has strong **anti-fungal, anti-viral and anti-bacterial** properties. The only substance that has as much lauric acid is human breast milk – liquid gold to an infant’s developing immune system. The body changes the fatty acid to mono-laurin which can destroy lipid coated viruses like [HIV virus, measles virus, herpes simplex virus-1 \(HSV-1\)](#).

From [Dr. Ray Peat](#) we see: An important function of coconut oil is that it supports mitochondrial respiration, **increasing energy production** that has been blocked by the unsaturated fatty acids we been told to consume for the last several decades. While these polyunsaturated fatty acids inhibit thyroid function on many levels, coconut oil can promote thyroid function by reducing those toxic effects. It allows normal mitochondrial oxidative metabolism, without producing the toxic lipid peroxidation that is promoted by unsaturated fats. This **assistance with metabolism helps with weight control**, something most of my clients are concerned about.

From [Dr. Bruce Fife](#): Consuming coconut oil **slows down sugar being absorbed in the bloodstream and helps with the secretion of insulin by the pancreas**. We all depend on our pancreas so whether you’re diabetic or not, this is positive for your body.

So coconut oil increases our immunity, helps our pancreas, blood sugar, thyroid and metabolism. Does it do anything else? According to an article by [Dr. Mary Enig](#) it helps **improve heart health promoting normal platelet function**. The liquid vegetable oils in the grocery store do the opposite – they increase platelet stickiness which can lead to blood clots.

After starting consumption of coconut oil on a regular basis, clients tell me they feel better than they have in years, their skin is more supple, and they don't get hungry (and subsequently don't snack too much like they used to). However, the [most exciting case study](#) of which I am aware regarding the benefits of coconut oil comes from [Dr. Mary Newport](#) whose husband has shown remarkable **cognitive and functional gains** since he began to consume coconut oil. Dr. Newport, medical director of the NICU (newborn intensive care unit) at Spring Hill Regional Hospital in Florida, watched as her 53 year old husband became incapacitated by early onset Alzheimer's. When conventional medication failed to help his condition, Dr. Newport (after much research) decided to try using coconut oil because of the [medium chain triglycerides](#). The liver converts MCTs directly to ketone bodies, which are then available for use as energy by the brain. Her husband just celebrated his fourth year of improved functioning, not the regression usually seen in Alzheimer's patients. We aren't aware yet what it can do for the "average" brain.

So much to ponder...

Next week we will take a practical look at how to add this wonderful substance to your life everyday. Adding coconut oil to one's diet is easy on the body since most of the fatty acids in it do not require bile for digestion. And the body turns them directly into energy providing fuel to meet the activity expectations we have for our busy lives.

Until then, wishing you REAL food, for REAL health so you can be REAL happy.
