

COELIAC DISEASE AND TYPE 1 DIABETES

How common is it to have both conditions?

Coeliac disease is more common in people who have Type 1 diabetes because both are autoimmune diseases. People with Type 1 diabetes are at a higher risk than the general population of having coeliac disease. Between 4% and 9% of people with Type 1 diabetes also have a diagnosis of coeliac disease compared with 1% of the general population.

For most people, Type 1 diabetes is diagnosed before coeliac disease, although it can happen the other way around as well.

What if I have no symptoms?

Some people with Type 1 diabetes appear to have mild or no obvious symptoms of coeliac disease, but their gut lining will still be damaged when they eat gluten. Once diagnosed with coeliac disease, the only treatment is to follow a strict gluten free diet.

How does coeliac disease affect my diabetes?

Your blood glucose control may change after you start your gluten free diet. This can happen because taking gluten out of your diet allows the lining of your gut to heal so absorption of nutrients, including carbohydrate, will improve. You may need to keep a closer eye on your blood glucose levels. If you are concerned, talk to your diabetes team about your insulin requirements.

Ten top diet tips for managing both conditions

1. Eat three meals a day

Try not to skip meals. Eating breakfast, lunch and dinner will control your appetite and your blood glucose levels.

2. Include gluten free starchy carbohydrate foods at each meal

- gluten free breads (especially multigrain or seeded varieties), pasta and crackers
- grains such as rice, polenta (cornmeal), buckwheat, millet and quinoa which by their nature do not contain gluten
- starchy vegetables such as new potatoes, sweet potatoes, yams, cassava (tapioca) and plantains
- gluten free breakfast cereals such as buckwheat flakes and muesli.

Carbohydrate is important to control your blood glucose levels. The amount you need to eat depends on your age, weight and how active you are.

3. Eat less fat

Cut down on the amount of fat you eat, particularly saturated fats. Fat is the greatest source of calories, so eating less will help you maintain a healthy weight:

- use less saturated fat by cutting down on butter, margarine and fatty meats
- choose lower fat dairy foods such as semi skimmed milk, low fat yoghurts (avoid those with fibre), reduced fat cheese and lower fat spreads
- grill, steam or oven bake instead of frying or cooking with oil or other fats.

4. Eat more fish

All plain fish by its nature does not contain gluten. Oily fish such as mackerel, sardines and salmon are high in omega-3 fats which may help prevent heart disease. Talk to your healthcare professional about how much you should eat.

This information is for guidance only and should not replace advice given by your healthcare professional.

* Some foods by nature do not contain gluten but during their processing, packaging or combination with other ingredients during the manufacturing process to produce a food product they may become contaminated with cereals containing gluten. If you are purchasing a product that does not have a 'gluten free' claim, please ensure there is no precautionary allergen labelling (such as a may contain statement) for any cereals containing gluten on the pack. If such a statement is visible, we advise that you do not consume the item.



5. Limit sugar and sugary foods

Sugar is not forbidden when you have diabetes, but constantly having foods and drinks that are high in sugar does not help to control your blood glucose.

Choosing water, sugar-free, no added sugar or diet squashes and fizzy drinks can be an easy way to reduce the sugar in your diet (avoid any barley squashes or any 'own brand' colas that may contain barley malt extract).

6. Reduce salt in your diet

Adults should aim to have 1 teaspoon or less of salt each day, children should have less and recommended maximum amounts of salt vary depending on age. More than this can raise blood pressure, which can lead to stroke and heart disease. Reduce the amount of processed foods you eat as these can be high in salt. Try flavouring foods with herbs, spices and pepper which are all gluten free.

7. Eat more fruit and vegetables

All fresh, frozen, canned, juiced and dried fruits by their nature do not contain gluten. Aim to eat at least five portions a day.

8. Include more pulses

All peas, beans and lentils by their nature do not contain gluten. Try adding them to stews, soups, curries and salads.*

9. Drink alcohol in moderation

Cider, wine, sherry, spirits, port and liqueurs are gluten free. Beer, lagers, stouts and ales contain varying amounts of gluten and are not suitable for a gluten free diet, but gluten free options are available. There are two types of gluten free beer – naturally gluten free and gluten removed. Both types, by law, can only be labelled gluten free if they contain 20 ppm or less of gluten (the legal definition of gluten free). In addition, a gluten removed beer made from barley must, by law, state on the label that it 'contains barley.'

For more information on alcohol and the gluten free diet please visit: www.coeliac.org.uk/alcohol

Remember alcohol can add extra calories. Never drink on an empty stomach as alcohol can increase your chances of hypoglycaemia (low blood glucose levels) if you are taking certain diabetes medication or insulin.

10. Avoid diabetic food and drinks

These are often expensive, contain just as much fat and calories as ordinary versions and can have a laxative effect.

Visit www.coeliac.org.uk or call us on **0333 332 2033** for more information.

Whether you're eating out on the move, in restaurants, or shopping for gluten free food for you and your family, look out for our trusted symbols which mean we're working for you to make things better.



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