Plant sterols and cholesterol
Information for patients and families

What are plant sterols?

Plant sterols are naturally found in plant based foods, such as fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds, legumes and vegetable oils. Plant sterol enriched foods have larger amounts of plant sterols added to them. You can also get plant sterols in supplement form.

Why are plant sterols good?

- Plant sterols can help lower your cholesterol by 5 to 8 percent.
- Plant sterols block the absorption of some of the cholesterol in your food.

How much do I need?

- Have 1 to 2 grams of plant sterols per day to help lower your cholesterol.
- Take supplements and foods enriched with plant sterols with a meal. They work best when taken with other foods.

Are plant sterols safe?

- Do not take plant sterols if you are pregnant or breastfeeding. Do not give them to children.
- Tell your doctor if you are planning to increase the plant sterols in your diet.
How can I add plant sterols to my diet?

- Include at least one serving of plant sterol enriched foods each day (see the chart below).
- Cook and bake with vegetable oils, instead of butter.
- Enjoy nuts on their own or add them to your salads or yogurt. Aim for ¼ to ⅓ cup of nuts per day.
- Eat whole grains, such as brown rice, barley, quinoa and oats.
- Eat a variety of fruits and vegetables each day. Canada’s Food Guide recommends 7 to 10 servings per day.
- Ask your doctor about taking a plant sterol supplement (see the chart below).

Plant sterol enriched foods and supplements*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product name</th>
<th>Serving size</th>
<th>Amount of plant sterols</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Becel Pro-Activ margarine</td>
<td>2 teaspoons</td>
<td>0.8 grams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minute Maid Heart Wise juice</td>
<td>250 ml</td>
<td>1 gram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oasis Health Break CholestPrevent</td>
<td>250 ml</td>
<td>1 gram</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Supplements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product name</th>
<th>Serving size</th>
<th>Amount of plant sterols</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Centrum Cardio multivitamin</td>
<td>1 tablet</td>
<td>0.5 grams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swiss Natural Vegapure</td>
<td>1 capsule</td>
<td>0.65 grams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature Made CholestOff Complete</td>
<td>1 capsule</td>
<td>0.3 grams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Brand Plant Sterols</td>
<td>1 capsule</td>
<td>0.37 grams</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*These are just some examples. Choose the product that is right for you.

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This information is not intended as a substitute for professional medical care. Ask your healthcare provider about this information if you have questions.

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