

'You Don't Have to Eat Kale to be Healthy' High Fat/Low Carb Program!

Week 2 Troubleshooting Guide

Issue: I'm gassy and bloated

As you enter into the HFLC way of eating, you will naturally lower inflammation in the body. Lowering inflammation is an excellent thing.

The problem with losing that baseline inflammation is that now we can really feel any foods that may not digest easily. Previously, you most likely had a certain level of inflammation within the digestive tract so when you ate something your body didn't love, you didn't even notice it (that feeling was your normal). Now, with that inflammation gone reactions are very noticeable.

The best thing to do here is to keep a food/mood/poop journal and track what you're eating and how you're feeling in real time. We should be able to figure out pretty quickly which foods are causing distress and either remove them temporarily or provide digestive support.

A great digestion tip is to have 1 tbsp of apple cider vinegar in water about 30 minutes before a meal to improve digestive secretions. You can also try taking digestive enzymes with your meals as your body learns to process these new foods. Both of these items can be purchased at a health food store. For the apple cider vinegar, I recommend Bragg's.

Issue: I'm not losing weight

There are a few common reasons this happens. Let's outline them:

1. You are eating dairy, and it doesn't agree with you. Dairy proteins are insulinogenic (meaning they can spike insulin) and affect people differently. If you are eating dairy and not losing weight at a good pace, try removing it for two weeks and see what happens. Often that's all that needs to happen.
2. You are eating too many nuts and seeds. Nuts and seeds are amazing little good fat-filled weapons. They are also very energy and calorie dense and VERY easy to overeat. Try cutting down on your nut/seed intake by portioning them out instead of snacking straight from the jar. Only including them in one snack/meal per day can help as well.
3. You are adding a lot of fat to your diet instead of replacing the carbohydrates with fat. This one is pretty obvious, but if you are going to try a high-fat diet, you can't just add in more fat to what you're already eating and expect to see results. Ideally the fat is replacing most of your carbohydrates. If you're still eating a lot of fruit, grains, beans, legumes, etc. you may need to remove the majority of them temporarily.

4. You're still eating grains. Grains can be very irritating to the digestive system. They can cause major bloating and upset which makes it very difficult to lose weight.
5. You are stressed and/or not sleeping enough. Your body will hold onto fat when it's stressed (emotional, physical, etc.). Trying to lose weight while overworking your adrenals (stress glands) is a losing battle. You need to get your stress under control. Try yoga, meditation, gratitude practices, journaling, etc. Also, go to bed at a reasonable hour and aim for at least 7 hours of sleep a night. Study after study shows that if you don't sleep enough, you hold onto fat like nobody's business.

Issue: I'm feeling tired/my period has stopped/I'm depressed or anxious/my hair seems thinner

If this is a new condition brought on by eating a high-fat, moderate protein, low-carb diet, it means that your body needs more carbs! You can still follow the principles of this lifestyle, but you need to incorporate carb-ups into your eating style.

Carb ups allow you to introduce extra carbs at dinnertime every 3 or 4 days to make sure your thyroid has enough carbohydrates to effectively convert the hormone T4 to T3 (the active form) and other important tasks.

To do a carb-up, pick a starchy vegetable (like sweet potatoes) and have 1/2 g for every pound you weigh at your evening meal. Remove some of the fats at dinner so you can compensate for the extra carbohydrates.

When you wake up in the morning resume eating the normal high-fat, moderate protein, low-carb way. Do this every 3 or 4 days if you're a woman or every week or so if you're a man.