

# WHAT TO DO ABOUT FIBROIDS & ENDOMETRIOSIS

Fibroids and endometriosis are related. The three key areas that you need to work on when it comes to fibroids and endometriosis include:

1. Inflammation
2. Detoxification (including detoxification of estrogen)
3. Blood sugar and insulin balance

## FIBROIDS

Fibroids are dependant on estrogen for growth. Genetic factors can also play a role in the development of fibroids as can environmental and lifestyle factors.

**The birth control pill is NOT the answer! Diet and lifestyle is.**

Fibroids actually make their own estrogen, which is stimulated by inflammation as well as by insulin and fat tissue (yes, fat tissue makes its own estrogen - this is why fibroids sometimes do not shrink in menopause).

It's also important to understand about an enzyme called *aromatase*. Aromatase stimulates estrogen production. What stimulates aromatase? Inflammatory markers amongst other things. Estrogen itself is also inflammatory, hence why an anti-inflammatory diet, (including aromatase inhibitors) is SO important in the treatment of fibroids.



**TARA THORNE**

REGISTERED NUTRITIONIST | TARATHORNENUTRITION.COM

Vitamin D is also a mandatory part of fibroid treatment. Vitamin D receptors have been found in uterine tissue and activation of these receptors has been shown to limit fibroid growth. A lot of people, especially those in Canada, are deficient in vitamin D so it's important to get yourself checked and supplement accordingly.

## ENDOMETRIOSIS

Endometriosis occurs when uterine lining grows outside of the uterus.

Just like fibroids, endometrial tissue makes its own estrogen in order to grow. So aromatase inhibitors and an anti-inflammatory as well as blood sugar regulation is also important for those suffering from endometriosis.

**Controlling your blood sugar and insulin is crucial for those suffering from fibroids and endometriosis because insulin stimulates estrogen, which stimulates the growth of fibroids and endometriosis**

Endometriosis is also associated with impaired immune function: women with endometriosis have decreased natural killer cell function. This impaired immune response results in inefficient clearing of the endometrial cells during menstruation.

Researchers have now come to view endometriosis as an autoimmune condition. Because of this, healing the gut is an imperative step for those who suffer from endometriosis.

Endometriosis is also associated with:

- Headaches
- Allergies
- Eczema
- Hypothyroidism
- Fibromyalgia
- Chronic fatigue syndrome
- Vaginal candida



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So what can you do if you suffer from endometriosis? You need to decrease estrogen production in the body by eating an anti-inflammatory diet, consuming aromatase-inhibiting foods and increasing your fibre (estrogen is excreted from the body via the feces: so fixing constipation is a must). It's also important to eat organic foods because pesticides have been found to stimulate the production of aromatase in the body, which stimulates the production of estrogen.

Some foods to include in your daily diet are:

- Ground flax seeds
- Soy (whole food soy, not soy milk) *\*unless you are allergic*
- Sources of resveratrol such as red grapes
- White button mushrooms
- Green tea
- Watercress
- Pomegranate
- Artichoke

It's imperative you eat an anti-inflammatory diet consisting of less animal products and more fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds and legumes. It's also important to control your blood sugar and insulin by eating protein at each meal and choosing low GI foods as well as eliminating processed and refined foods and reducing your carbohydrate intake.

There are also some supplements that can help including:

- Grape seed extract
- Probiotic
- Vitamin D
- DIM



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## DON'T FORGET ABOUT STRESS!

Reducing your stress is a HUGE factor in managing both of these conditions. Stress is pro-inflammatory and disrupts blood sugar balance. A study also showed that it's possible that stress contributed to the production of fibroids due to fluctuations in estrogen and progesterone levels from the subsequent release of cortisol (our main stress hormone). Do whatever you can to reduce your stress. Start by joining my "Stress" Less "Happy" More challenge [here](#).

If you want to find out what else you can do to manage your fibroids or endometriosis [please reach out](#) for a free 15 minute Skype or telephone consultation.

There *is* hope if you're suffering from these conditions, and there's so much that can be done with diet, lifestyle and supplements to manage - sometimes even eradicate - the nasty symptoms of fibroids and endometriosis.

[Get in touch](#) to find out how I can personalize a plan to suit you.

*"I've done the research so you don't have to!"*



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