



# Fuelling Women in Triathlon & through Life

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Sports Dietitian (ADP)



# A little bit about me...





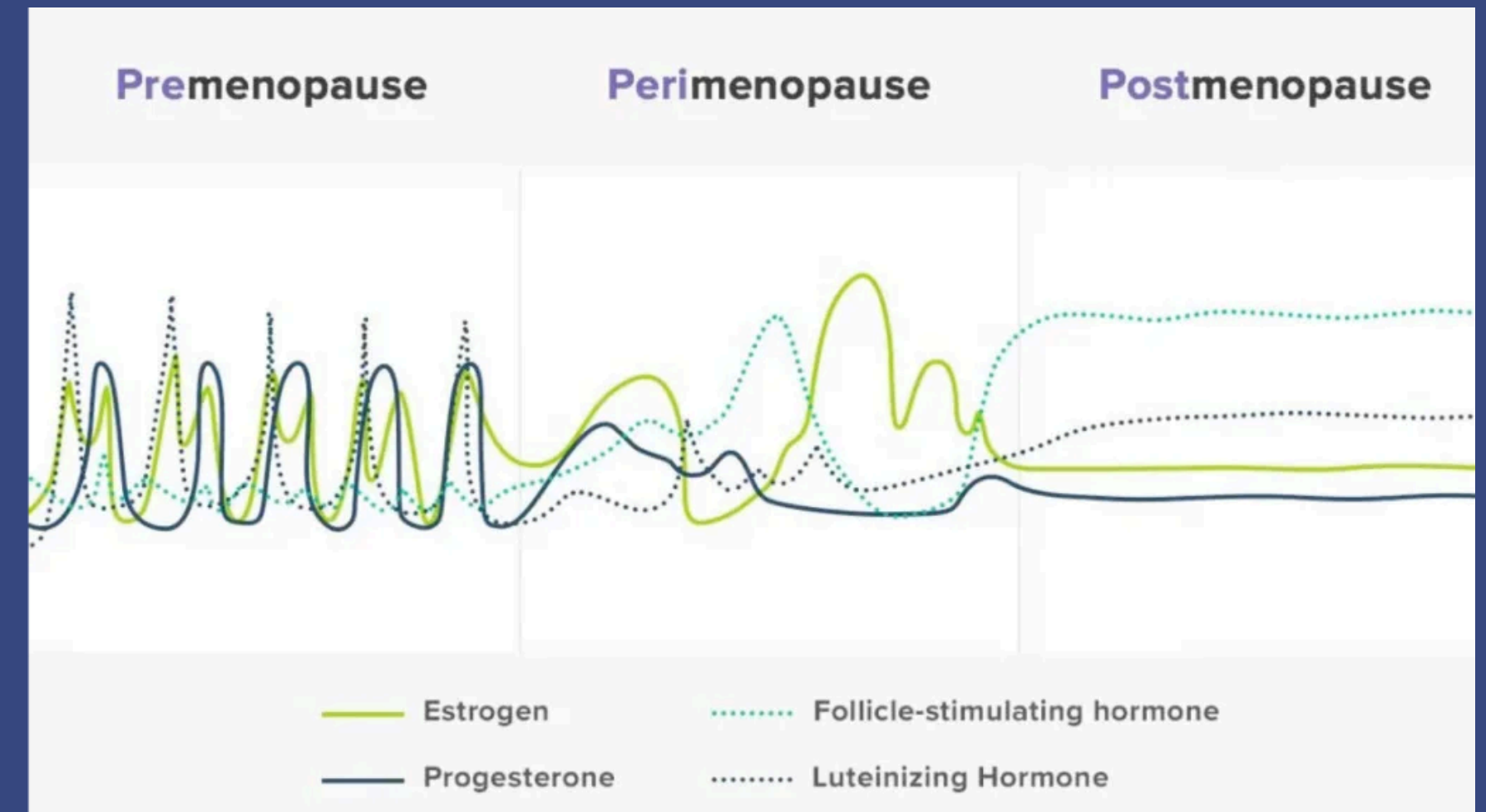
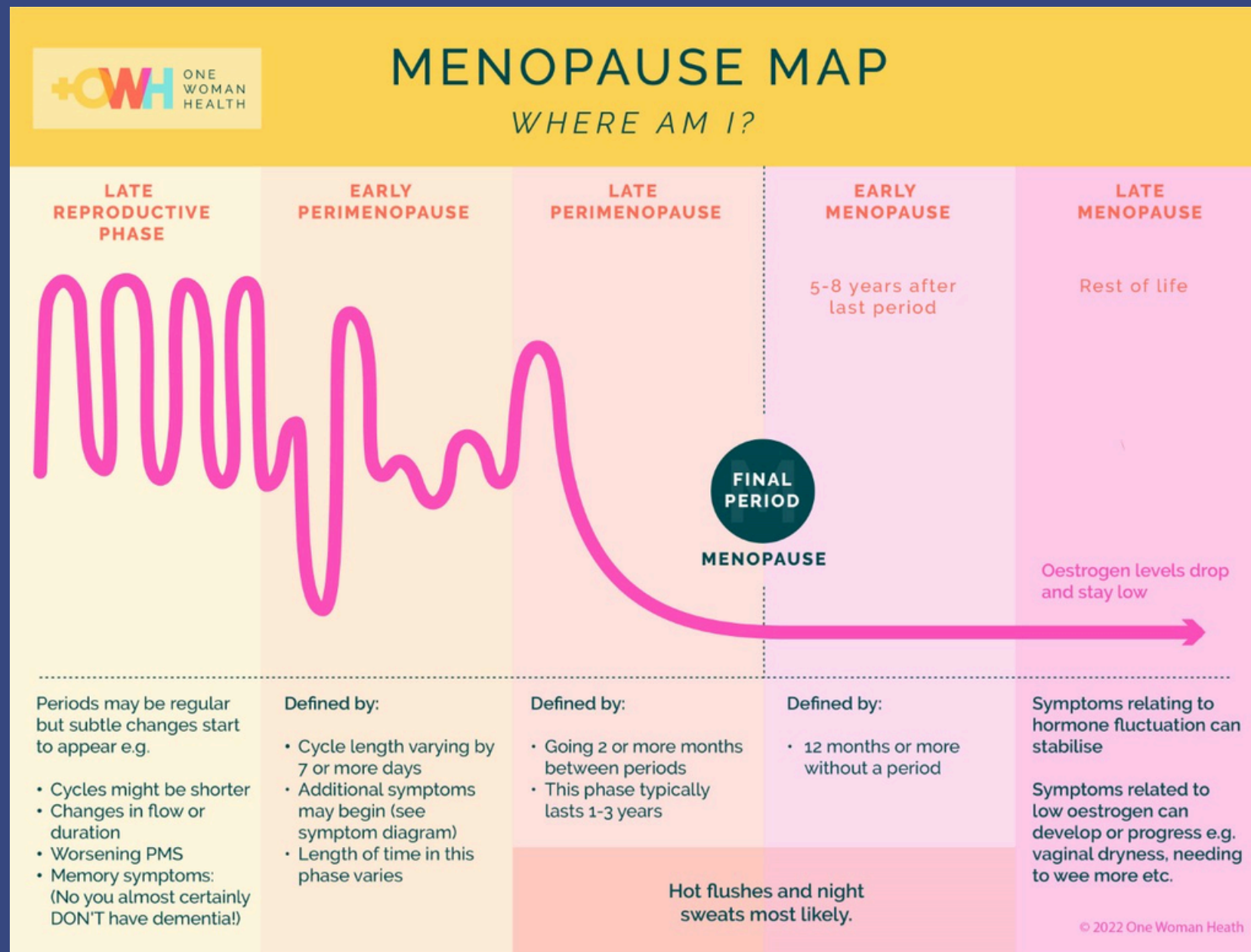
# GOALS for today

1. Feel empowered & be confident in food and fuelling
2. Always take the individualised approach & experience



# Menopause

is a journey with a variable course



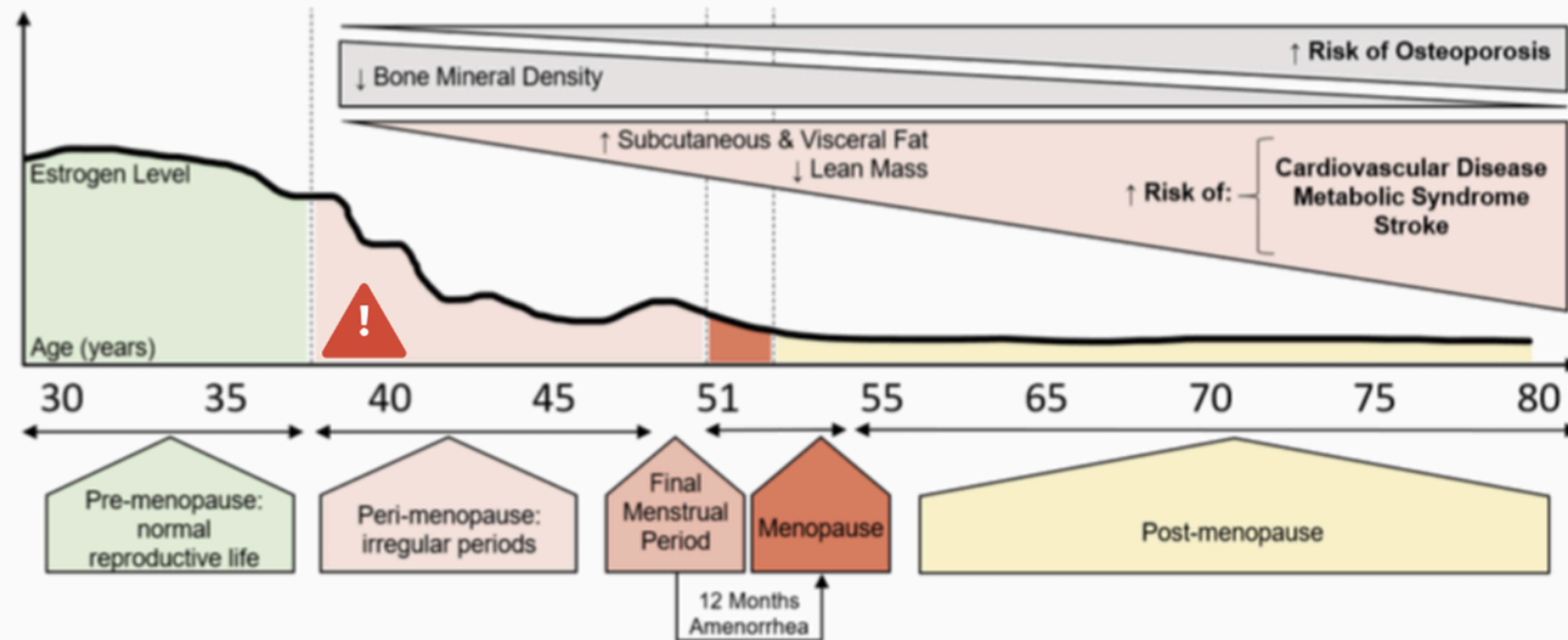
<https://www.langleyhousesurgery.co.uk/menopause-perimenopause>

<https://onewomanhealth.com/menopause-in-pictures/>



# Menopause

## *Menopause transition, Estrogen Levels & Disease Risk Overview*



Prioritise protein

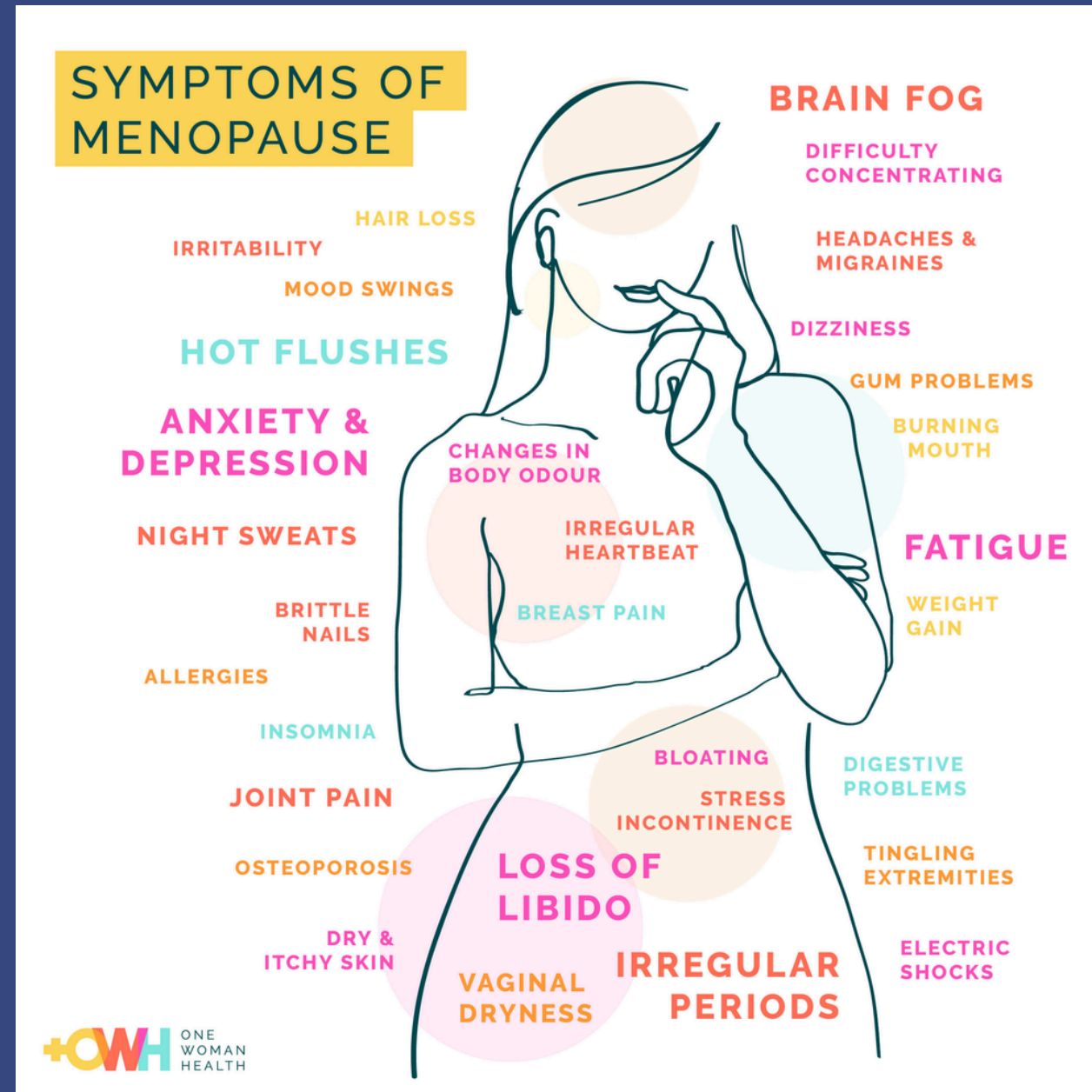
Creatine

Magnesium

Omega 3 fatty acids

Cooling aids

Quality & fibre rich carbohydrates



Plenty of colourful veg

Calcium rich foods

Adaptogens

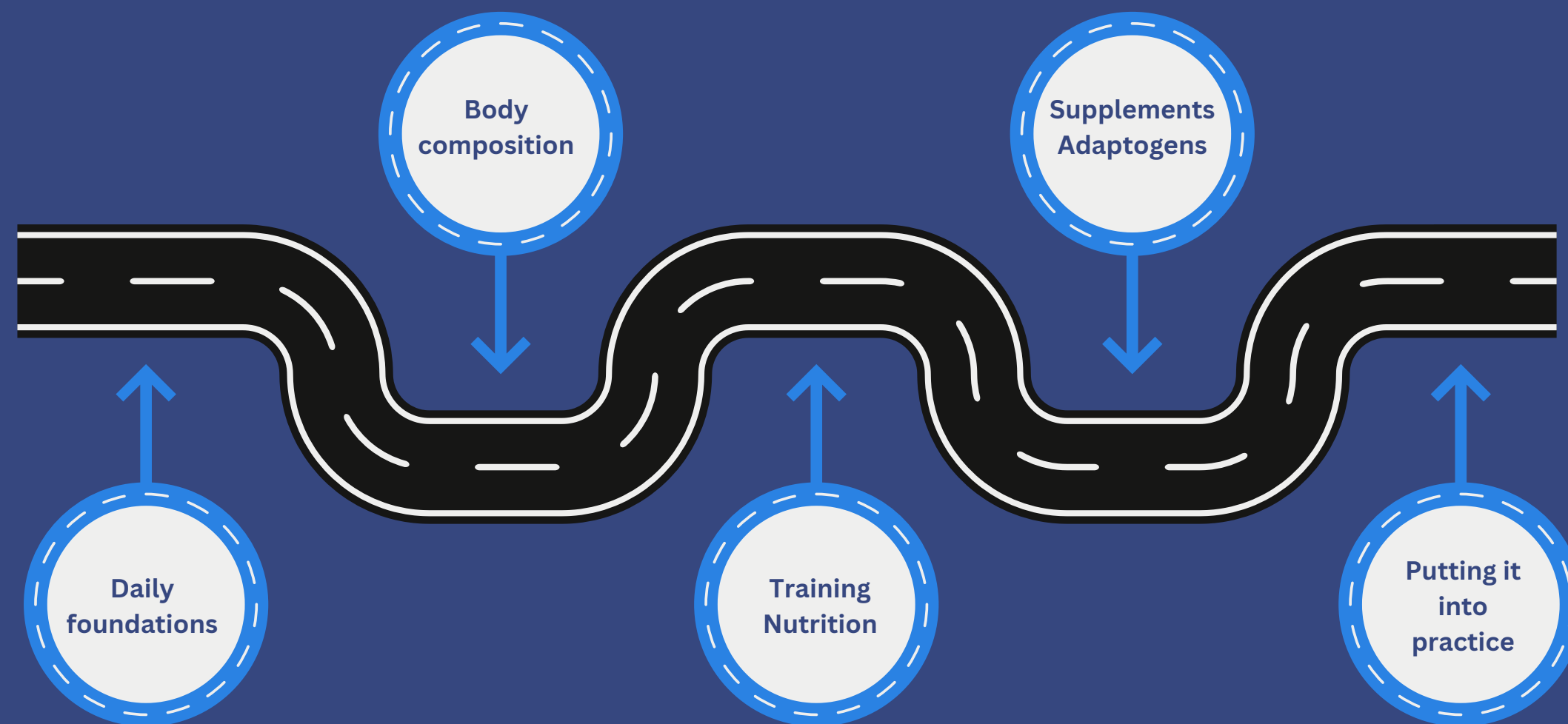
Individualised supplementation plan



Comparison is the thief of joy



# Today's roadmap



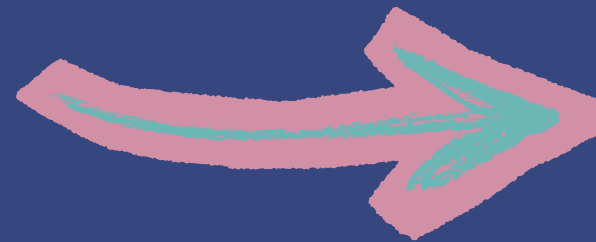
# DAILY FOUNDATIONS:

Intentional, not restrictive



# WHAT CHANGES

- ↓ insulin sensitivity
- ↓ muscle protein synthesis
- ↑ fat storage (especially around middle)
- ↓ bone density
- ↑ inflammation
- Sleep disruption
- Chronic underfuelling (intentional or not)



Harder to:

- recover
- back up from sessions
- maintain lean muscle
- hit key high intensity sessions
- focus, make decisions

Increased injury risk  
(bone and tendon)

# KEY MACRONUTRIENTS FOR TRIATHLETES & WOMEN

## CARBOHYDRATES

2-3.5g/kg → 5-8g+/kg

- High fibre - 30+g/day
- Less processed
- Periodise around training + earlier in the day to reduce insulin resistance
- Increase daily intake relevant to training load!

## PROTEIN

1.8-2.4g/kg

- High quality
- HBV plant protein (includ. soy and legumes)
- Regular across the day (4-6 times)
- 0.5g/kg/meal

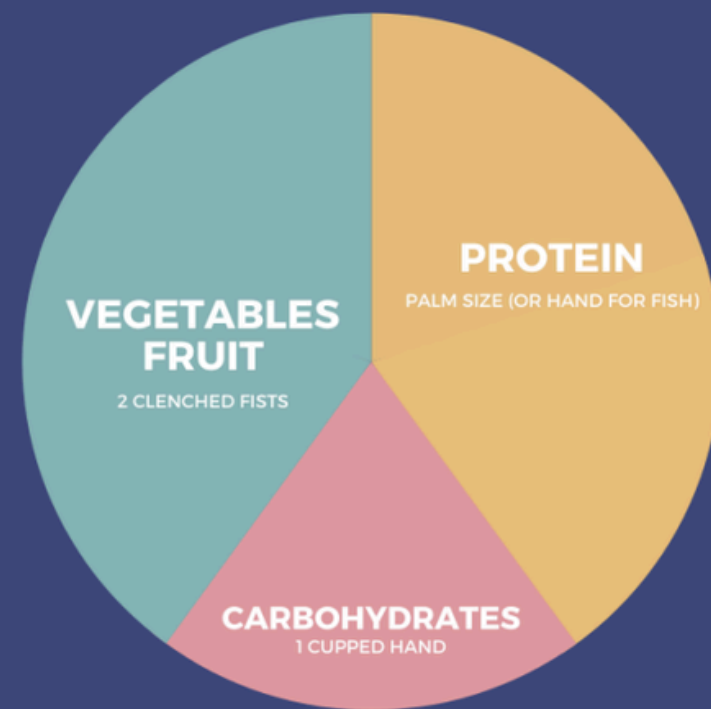
## FAT

1-1.3g/kg

- Unsaturated fatty acids help reduce inflammation
- omega-3 fatty acids (2-6g/day) ~help with hot flushes, brain cognition and mood function

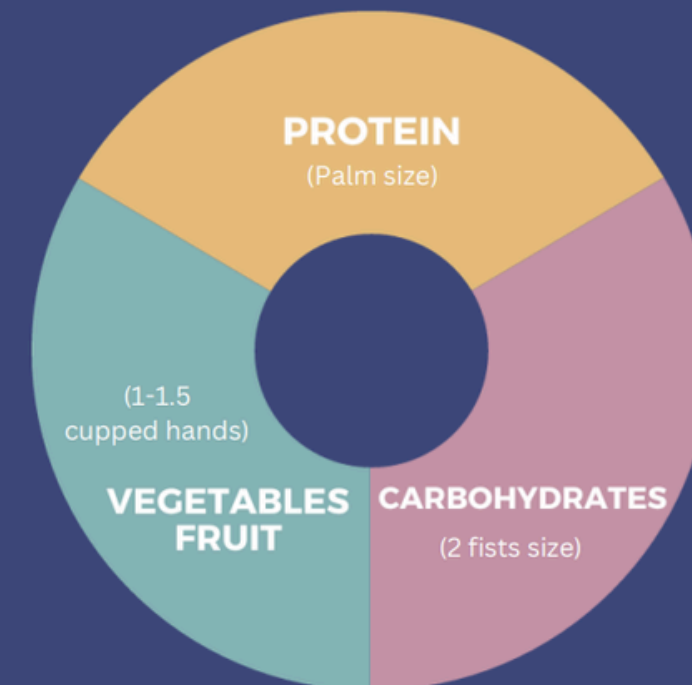
# THE PLATE MODEL\*

## PERI & POST-MENOPAUSE



1 THUMB SIZE OF FATS

## MEDIUM DAY | 1.5-2+ hours total



1 TABLESPOON FATS

# BUILDING A HEALTHY ATHLETE: Foundations

+ **FIBRE** for phytoestrogens



## FUEL WITH CARBOHYDRATES

- Maintain energy for muscles and brain
- Support growth & development
- Help recovery & reduce injury risk
- Fast thinking & alertness
- Eat regularly throughout the day



## FUEL WITH CARBOHYDRATES

- Bread
- Rolled oats
- Pasta and noodles
- Rice
- Potato, sweet potato, pumpkin
- Legumes
- Wraps
- Rice paper rolls



## BUILD WITH PROTEIN

- Build muscle and strength
- Recover & repair from sport
- Helps manage energy levels and appetite
- Eat regularly throughout the day



## BUILD WITH PROTEIN

- Eggs
- Nuts, nut butters, seeds
- Tofu, tempeh, edamame beans
- Legumes
- Chicken, pork, beef, turkey, etc
- Fish
- Milk, yoghurt, cheese



## COLOUR FRUITS & VEGETABLES

- Supports your immunity & reduces illness
- Full of vitamins, minerals & antioxidants
- Helps recover faster & train harder
- Helps a happy gut



## COLOUR FRUITS & VEGETABLES

- Banana, apples, oranges, berries, grapes, kiwi fruits, stone fruits
- Broccoli, zucchini, green beans, spinach, cabbage, lettuce, rocket
- Carrot, squash, tomatoes, capsicum, cucumber, mushrooms, bok choy, eggplant, beetroot
- Go for fresh, frozen or tinned



## PROTECT WITH HEALTHY FATS

- Supports recovery & repair
- Keeps you fuller
- Anti-inflammatory properties
- Helps absorb key nutrients
- Improves brain function & focus



## PROTECT WITH HEALTHY FATS

- Avocado
- Nuts, nut butter, seeds
- Extra virgin olive oil
- Macadamia oil
- Oily fish (salmon and mackerel)
- Olives



# FIBRE TYPES

AIMING FOR 30G+ OF FIBRE EACH DAY  
PLUS A RANGE OF TYPES BEST SUPPORTS DIGESTION, BOWELS,  
ENERGY, APPETITE AND A HAPPY GUT!

## Soluble Fibre

- Helps us feel fuller for longer
- Helps lower LDL cholesterol & stabilise blood sugar



Fruit

1 Medium Piece  
= 3g fibre



Oats

½ Cup (cooked)  
= 2.5g fibre



Vegetables

1 cup mixed  
= 10g fibre



Lentils

½ Cup  
= 7g fibre



Beans

½ cup  
= 14g fibre



Linseeds

1 tsp  
= 2g fibre

## Insoluble Fibre

- Helps us feel fuller for longer

Helps reduce constipation and speed up transit time



Wholegrain  
Seed Bread

1 slice  
= 4g fibre



Brown  
Rice

½ Cup (cooked)  
= 1.5g fibre



Wholemeal  
Pasta

½ Cup (cooked)  
= 4g fibre



Bran  
Cereals

½ cup  
= 12.5g fibre



Nuts

¼ cup  
= 3g fibre



Fruit  
(skin on)

1 medium piece  
= 3g fibre



Vegetables

1 cup mixed  
= 10g fibre

## Resistant Starch

- Good gut bugs eat this kind of fibre which keeps our gut healthy



Green Banana  
Flour



Cooked &  
Cooled Potato



Cooked &  
Cooled Pasta



Cooked &  
Cooled Rice



Sweet  
Potato



Chia Seeds



Lentils



Beans



Cashews



Chickpeas

ADAPTED FROM SOPHUS HEALTH





# KEY MICRONUTRIENTS FOR TRIATHLETES & WOMEN

## IRON

Transport oxygen in blood  
Support energy production, immunity, hormones.

### FOODS:

- Meats
- Eggs
- Legumes, nuts, seeds
- Cashews, dried apricots, green leafy

## CALCIUM

Bone health  
Smooth muscle contraction  
Hormone regulation

### FOODS:

- Dairy foods
- Calcium set tofu
- Salmon with bones
- Okra, broccoli, dried figs

## ZINC

Immune health  
DNA  
Building proteins  
Healing tissues

### FOODS:

- Seafood & meat
- Nuts
- Dairy, whole grains

## VITAMIN B12

Blood and nerve health  
DNA  
Works with iron to prevent anemia

### FOODS:

- Cow's milk, fortified plant milks
- Cheese
- Meats, eggs, fish
- Supplement if vegan

## MAGNESIUM

Muscle and nerve function  
Regular blood sugar and blood pressure  
Bone strength  
Reduced anxiety, improve sleep quality, relief from headaches etc

### FOODS:

- Almonds, peanuts, cashews
- Pumpkin seeds
- Soybeans, soymilk, tofu, blackbeans,

## VITAMIN D

Bone health  
Calcium & phosphorus absorption  
Reduce inflammation

### FOODS:

- Milk
- Eggs
- Mushrooms in the sun
- Oily fish

## ANTIOXIDANTS (VIT A, C, E, K)

Reduce cellular damage  
Immunity  
Bone and connective tissue

### FOODS:

- Fruits
- Vegetables
- Extra virgin olive oil

## OMEGA-3s

Anti-inflammatory  
Support brain & heart health  
Joint health

### FOODS:

- Oily fish, blue green algae
- Walnuts, chia seeds, flaxseeds
- Supplementation



# KEY REDUCTORS

## ALCOHOL

- Strips gut microbiome,
- Increases core temperature
- Disturbs sleep quality
- Can dehydrate

## CAFFEINE

- Can trigger or exacerbate symptoms
- Delay appetite
- Elevates cortisol
- Impacts sleep and energy

## ULTRA PROCESSED

- Limit ultra processed foods outside of key training sessions
- Can increase inflammation
- Low in fibre
- Diet / sugar free options can impact the gut and not actually fill you up

# USEFUL SUPPLEMENTS



# SUPPLEMENTS

## FOOD FIRST...

### Micronutrients

- **Iron** (heavier periods, foot striking etc)
- **Vitamin D** (bone health)
- **Calcium** (bone health)
- **Magnesium** (bone integrity, sleep, muscle)
- **Omega 3 fatty acids** (helps with hot flushes, brain fog and mood function)

### Supporters

- **Creatine** 0.3g/kg/bw
- **Tart cherry** concentration (30ml prior to bed)
- **Beta alanine**: 4-6g/day prior to exercise helps vasodilation and reduce hot flushes during exercise + lactic acid buffer
- **Myo-inositol - 2-4g/day**: Improves insulin sensitivity. Works as a second messenger achieving insulin-like effects on metabolic enzymes.

### Adaptogens

- **Ashwagandha** - 250mg b.i.d.
  - calming, Reduce cortisol, anti-anxiety, anti-depressant, increase LH, T3, T4.
- **Holy basil**: Calming: 500mg b.i.d.
  - Anti-microbial, reduces oxidative tissue damage, modulates cortisol, improves glucose control
- **2Before**: Stimulating: 10g 30-60 minutes prior to peak performance. Anthocyanins enhance performance and speed up recovery.
- **Maca**: Stimulating: 2g/day. Sex hormone support

# SUPPLEMENT FRAMEWORK

AIS Supplement Framework website



- Sports drinks
- Sports gels
- Sports bars
- Electrolyte supplement
- Mixed macronutrient supplement [bar, powder, liquid meal]

**Medical supplements**

Supplements used to prevent or treat clinical issues including diagnosed nutrient deficiencies. Should be used within a larger plan under the expert guidance of a Medical Practitioner/Accredited Sports Dietitian.

- Iron
- Calcium
- Probiotics
- Vitamin D

**Performance supplements**

Supplements/ingredients that can support or enhance sports performance. Best used with an individualised and event-specific protocol, with the expert guidance of an Accredited Sports Dietitian.

- Caffeine
- β-Alanine
- Sodium Bicarbonate
- Creatine

**BROWSE BY ROLE**

- Athletes
- Individuals and Families
- Schools and Teachers

**AUSTRALIAN SPORTS COMMISSION TOPICS**

- Grants and Funding
- Sport Governance
- Club Development

**AIS TOPICS**

- Health and Wellbeing
- Community Engagement
- Nutrition

X CLOSE

## Caffeine

Following ingestion, caffeine is rapidly absorbed and transported to all body tissues and organs where it exerts a large variety of effects.

*Athlete infographics have been developed for the information of athletes under the direct guidance of a sports dietitian. Sports dietitians have expert knowledge of sports supplements and their potential application in an athletes broader health and performance nutrition strategies. Always engage with a sports dietitian when considering the use of any supplement. <https://www.sportsdietitians.com.au/#find-sports-dietitian>*

Practitioner Fact Sheet

Athlete Infographic

**What is it?**

**What does it look like and where is it found?**

**How and when do I use it?**

**Are there any concerns or considerations?**

**Where can I find more information?**


References

## CREATINE

### FOOD FIRST?

- 'Food first' principles should apply to all supplements, however diet alone is not enough to increase muscle creatine to supplement levels required for performance benefit.
- Muscle creatine uptake is maximised by ingestion with carbohydrate due to the effects of insulin. Early recommendations using large amounts of simple sugars has been updated with a protein (50 g) and carb (50 g) rich meal achieving the same result.
- Consider if this is appropriate for your individual needs and more practically ingest creatine with your recovery/ main meals (that should focus on protein and carbs).

### Co-ingestion with post-exercise recovery ideas providing protein + carbs:

 1 egg on toast + Rokeby farms breakfast smoothie	 Salad & chicken (250g) wrap + 1 apple (medium)	 Tofu & vegetable stirfry with rice
 Breakfast cereal & milk + yoghurt	 Tuna & lettuce sandwich + banana smoothie	 Steak & salad with roast potato

### CONCERNS & CONSIDERATIONS

- Consider impact of potential 1-2kg increase in body mass caused by fluid retention vs. a performance benefit in your sport.
- No evidence of adverse effects with long term (4 yrs) creatine supplementation at appropriate dosage in healthy individuals.
- Following cessation of creatine supplementation, muscle creatine levels and body mass return to baseline over 4-6 weeks.
- Timing of creatine ingestion with post-exercise recovery meal may be more effective and practical than pre-exercise.
- Mild, temporary gut upset can be experienced.
- Individuals with the lowest muscle creatine stores may benefit most.



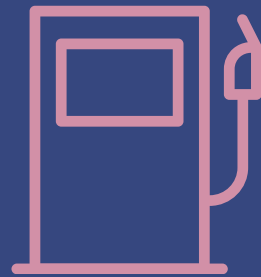
EASY SIMPLE DELICIOUS  
**FOOD PREP & IDEAS**



# NUTRITION FOR TRAINING & RACING



# TRAINING NUTRITION



**BEFORE**

Fuel Up



GOAL  
CARBOHYDRATE  
FOODS  
?PROTEIN

WHEN  
30 minutes to 2 hours  
before

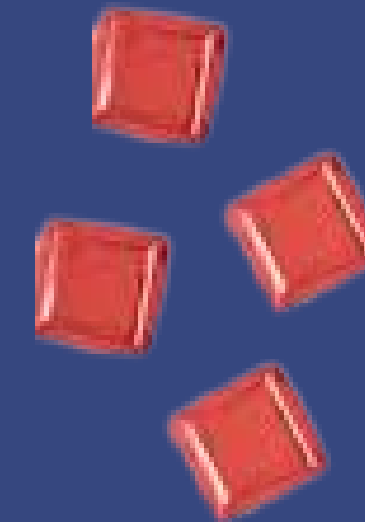
WHAT  
0.5-4g carbs/kg/ BW  
  
Yoghurt & muesli  
Banana + milky coffee  
Nut bar/ muesli bar  
Cottage cheese on toast  
Toast with PB +  
jam/honey



# TRAINING NUTRITION



## DURING Top Up



GOAL  
HYDRATION +  
CARBOHYDRATES  
SODIUM

WHEN  
Every 30-45 minutes  
? 10-15 minutes  
Sip often & small

WHAT  
<1 hour = 0-30g/hr  
1-2 hours = 30-60g/hr  
>2.5 hours = 60-90g/hr  
Match fluid to ~70-90% of losses

? May need to reduce fructose if sensitive



# TRAINING NUTRITION



## AFTER

Refuel + Recover +  
Repair + Rehydrate

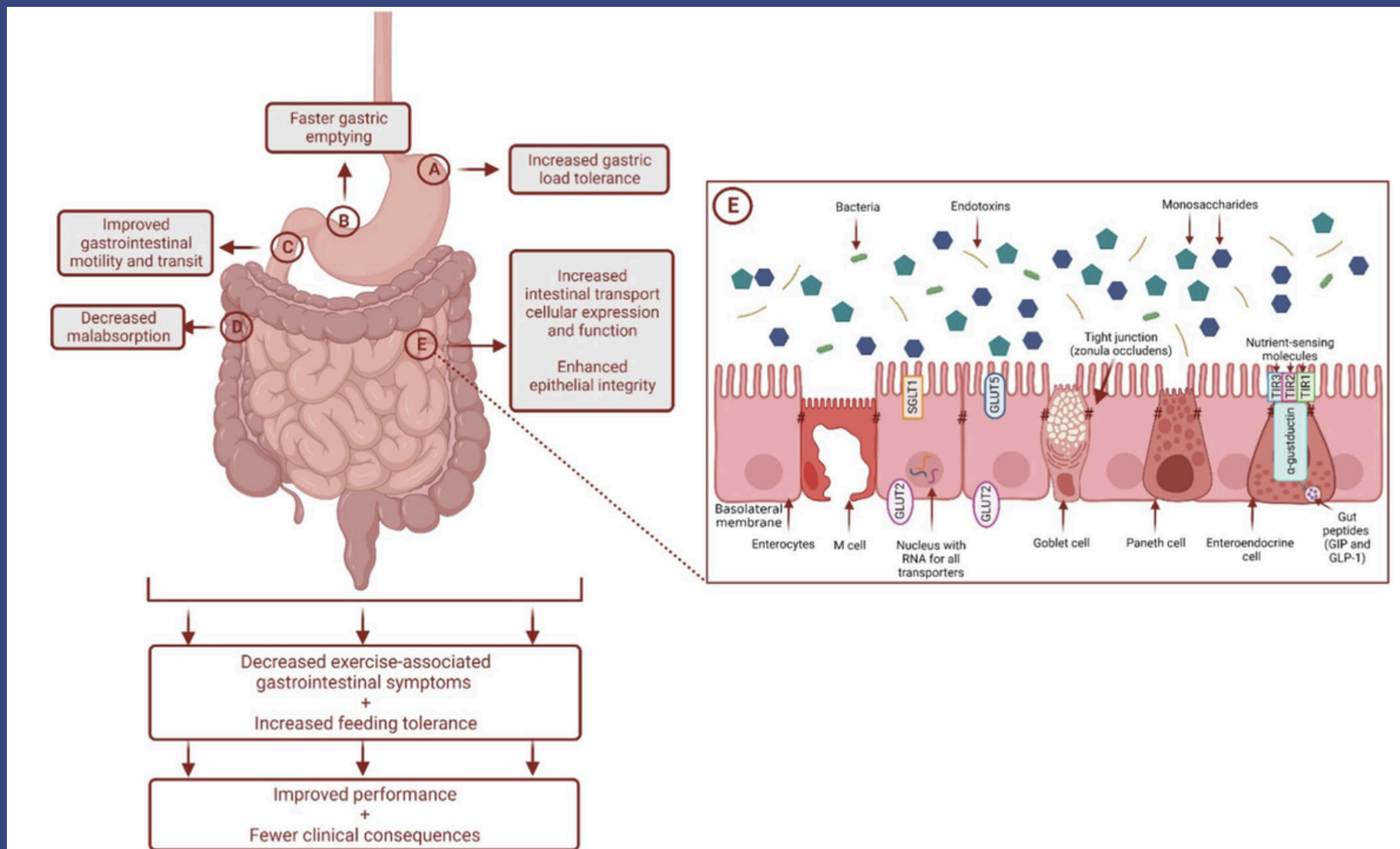
GOAL  
PROTEIN +  
CARBOHYDRATE  
FOODS + FLUIDS

WHEN  
Within 45 minutes  
Then every 2-3 hours

WHAT  
0.8-1g carbs/kg/ BW  
30-40g protein  
150% fluid losses over 2-3  
hours



# TOP STRATEGY: TRAINING THE GUT



**Fig. 1** Schematic illustration of the potential mechanisms by which ‘gut-training’ or repetitive ‘feeding-challenge’ may provide beneficial outcomes in gastrointestinal integrity, function, systemic responses, and exercise-associated gastrointestinal symptoms (Ex-GIS). *SGLT1* sodium-glucose co-transporter 1, *GLUT5* glucose transporter 5,

*GLUT2* glucose transporter 2, *TIR1* taste receptor type 1 member 1, *TIR2* taste receptor type 1 member 2, *TIR3* taste receptor type 1 member 3, *M cell* microfold cell, *GIP* gastric inhibitory peptide, *GLP* glucagon-like peptide-1



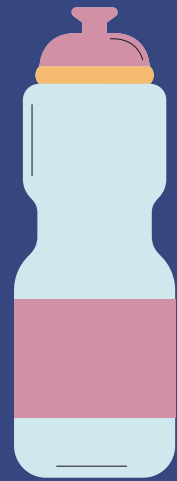
# HYDRATION

## GOAL = prevent dehydration

- Don't want to overhydrate
- Fluid testing & sweat testing
- Thirst mechanism reduces, but we still need to hydrate
- Sodium important
  - season to taste vs calculated losses
- Duration and intensity dictates % to replace during exercise
- Urine doesn't need to be clear!
- Ad lib vs plan



# COOLING STRATEGIES



Freeze bottles the night before (or use insulated bottle)



Incorporate slushie/ slury drinks (or loads of ice cubes)



Snow cone or electrolyte ice blocks before/ after



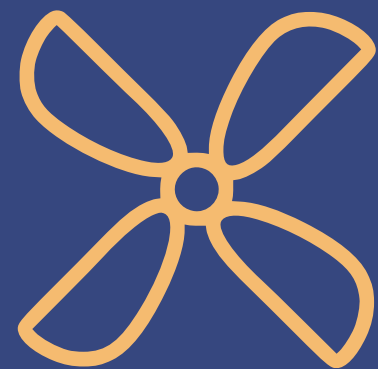
Pour water over skin to evaporate & draw heat away



Use ice packs before/ after & cooling collars during (if possible)



Add ice cubes to bottles or put under clothing, in your hat, or suck on them



Sit in front of a fan (or air con) before you start OR have a cold shower just before



Find shade when possible



Wear cool clothing & replace when possible

# RACE PREPARATION



# CARBOHYDRATE LOADING

1

**GOAL:** To overload muscle glycogen stores so they're dripping with carbohydrates (energy)

2

Easy to eat, easy to digest foods. AIM FOR 7-9g/kg/body weight of carbohydrates

3

Load for 2-4 days + drop volume 12-14 hours before to rest your gut

4

Stay hydrated.  
Sip fluids regularly



# FOODS FOR CARBOHYDRATE LOADING



Smoothies & juices



Toast with jam, honey, banana, marmalade



Sports drink & sodas



Cereal and quick oats



Muffins, fruit buns/ loaf  
banana fruit



Fruit and fruit juice



Lollies/ candy



Pasta, rice and noodles  
with simple sauces



Potato chips/ crisps



# RACE NUTRITION




# BUILDING YOUR RACE NUTRITION




**1. CARBOHYDRATES**

- Aiming for 60-90g/ hour (or more less if required)
- Multiple Transportable Carbs (ie. fructose and glucose/ maltodextrin)




**2. FLUID & HYDRATION**

- Do a fluid test to learn how much you lose in your sweat
- You don't need to replace 100%
- Aim for 85-95%



**3. SODIUM**

- Match sodium to fluid losses
- Males = 800-1000mg/L
- Females = 600-800mg/L
- Review products and foods you're using



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**4. CAFFEINE**

- Consider caffeine supplementation before and during for a boost & alertness
- 3-6mg/kg body weight initially
- During - dependent on individual



**5. PAIN RELIEF**

- Start pain relief early to keep pain levels down
- Take regularly throughout according to instructions



**6. TROUBLESHOOTING**

- Have back up plans and options ready in your 'toolkit'
- Be prepared for: muscle cramps, nausea, vomiting, reflux, flavour fatigue



**7. RECOVERY**

- Have a recovery plan for immediately after AND for the next 3-7 days minimum
- Take food / drink with you to the event so you can refuel quickly

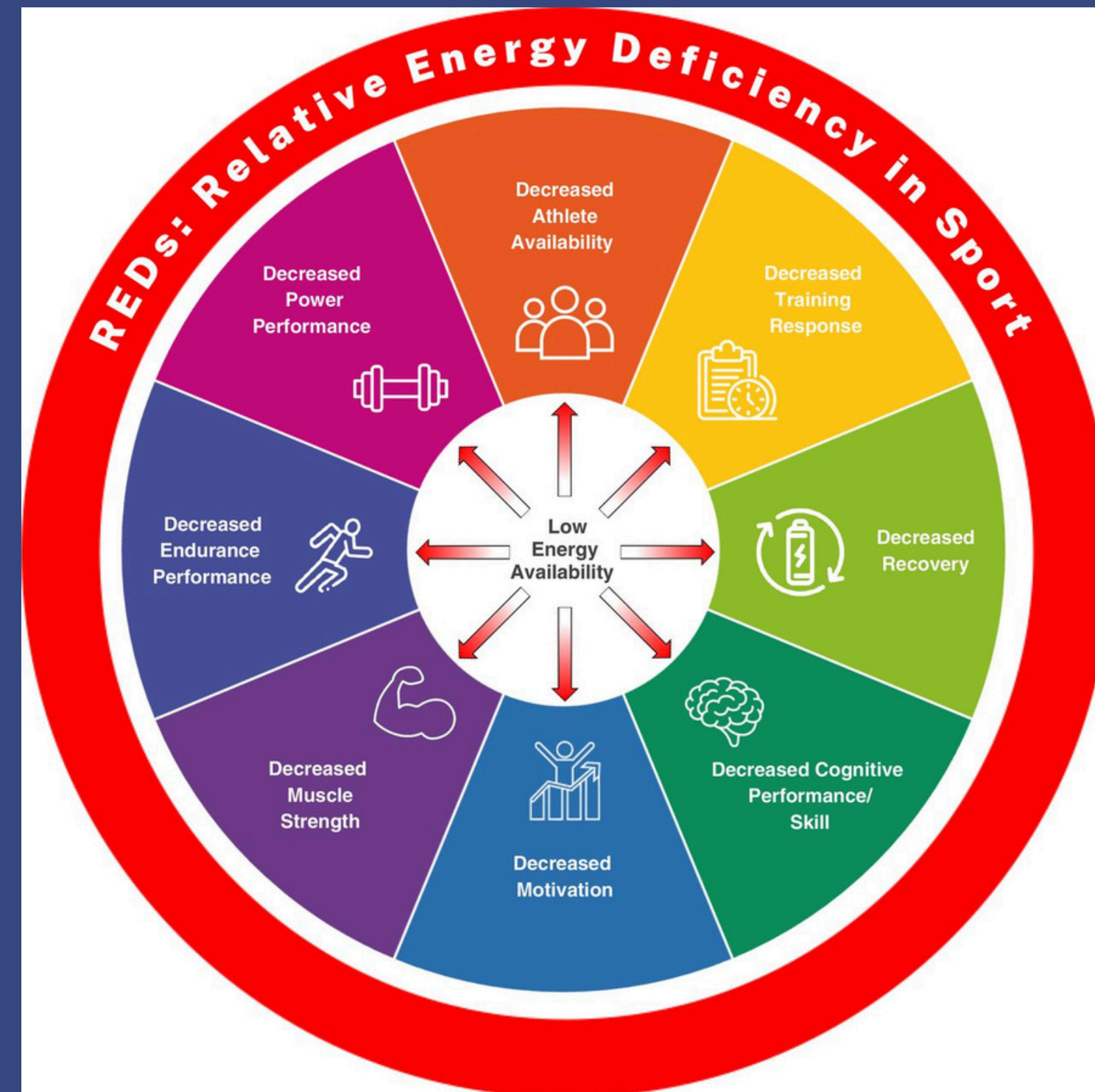


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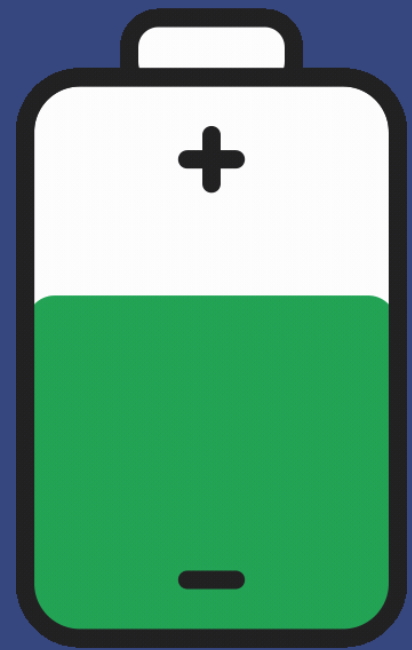
# PREVENTING & MANAGING LEA & POOR NUTRITION



# PREVENTING LOW ENERGY AVAILABILITY



# PREVENTING LOW ENERGY AVAILABILITY



- Eat BEFORE and AFTER training
- Hydrate during = carbs in your bottle
- Fuel during if over 75 minutes
- Manage training loads & adjust when needed
- Eat regularly throughout the day (including school, uni, work, life!)
- Listen to hunger cues
  - + also strategies for when to ignore/ don't have
- Look out for signs and symptoms
- Use liquid foods if hard to eat
- TRAIN YOUR GUT

# ARE YOU EATING ENOUGH TO FUEL YOUR PERFORMANCE?



## FACTORS THAT CAN MAKE FUELLING CHALLENGING...



- altered training load
- altitude or heat training
- interstate or overseas travel
- difficulties shopping for food
- new training squad or location
- changed eating habits for any reason
- unpredictable or change to work / study routines

- limited kitchen access or cooking skills
- moving out of home or changed living arrangements
- unsure how to execute your sports nutrition plan
- financial hardship

**WARNING**  
UNDER-FUELLING CAN NEGATIVELY IMPACT YOUR PERFORMANCE & HEALTH

### NEXT STEPS...

#### FUEL CHECK



Speak to your sports dietitian who has expert knowledge in helping you to match your fuelling needs to training and competition



# ARE YOU EATING ENOUGH TO FUEL YOUR PERFORMANCE?



UNDER-FUELLING CAN AFFECT MALES & FEMALES

**75%**

OF FEMALE ATHLETES MAY BE UNDER-FUELLING

1 IN 3 FEMALE ATHLETES HAS 2 OR MORE SYMPTOMS OF UNDER-FUELLING

## HAVE YOU NOTICED...



- low mood / feeling irritable
- difficulty with motivation for training
- new or persistent gut discomfort
- loss of appetite or always feeling hungry

- persistent fatigue
- unintentional weight loss
- inability to alter body composition
- pressure to lose weight (from self / others)
- menstrual cycle changes (if not on pill)
- lowered sex drive
- more frequent injury & / or illness
- prolonged rehab
- poor performance or failing to adapt to training

### IF YOU TICKED ONE OR MORE ...

#### FUEL CHECK



Speak to your sports dietitian who has expert knowledge in helping you to match your fuelling needs to training and competition



# RECAP FOR TODAY

1. Feel empowered & be confident in food and fuelling
2. Always take the individualised approach & experience

- DAILY FOUNDATIONS
- KEY NUTRIENTS & SUPPLEMENTS
- TRAINING AND RACE NUTRITION





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