

Addison's Disease

Disease Report

REPORT CATEGORIES —



GUT HEALTH



ENERGY & FATIGUE

Sample Client

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DISCLAIMER

This report does not diagnose this or any other health conditions. Please talk to a healthcare professional if this condition runs in your family, you think you might have this condition, or you have any concerns about your results.

Personal information

NAME

Sample Client

SEX AT BIRTH

Male

HEIGHT

5ft 5" 165cm

WEIGHT

137lb 62kg



How this works

Our Wellness Reports analyze how your DNA influences your health.
We then use this analysis to give you personalized risk estimates and recommendations.



Similarly, our Trait Reports look at how your DNA influences your traits.



Your DNA is like an instruction manual — it contains a lot of information.
You can think of it as a blueprint for your body.

Genetic variants are parts of DNA that differ from person to person. Some can make you more vulnerable to certain health issues, while others may influence traits such as eye color.



We use artificial intelligence and machine learning to analyze all this information.
We then summarize your results as a risk score or display it on a gauge.

In total, we analyze up to 83 million genetic variants.

When we give a risk score, the risk icon tells you if you are at a higher or lower risk compared to other people:



Genotype color info:

AA

You don't have any risk alleles

AA

You have 1 risk allele

AA

You have 2 risk alleles

Your risk is also displayed as a percentile. This will tell you how your risks compare to our sample population. The lower your percentile number, the lower your risk. The "50th percentile" would be an average risk.

Similarly, the gauge tells you your relative risk score compared to our sample population, or it indicates a specific trait or haplotype you are more likely to have based on your genetic variants.

When applicable, we also list top evidence-based recommendations that may help lower your risk. The focus is on recommendations that may be of benefit to you, based on your genetics.

Our recommendations come in four categories: lifestyle, diet, supplements and drugs. The following icons tell you which category a recommendation falls into:



Our team of scientists also ranks each recommendation.
We rank based on impact and the strength of evidence in the medical literature.

Impact shows how strongly a recommendation will affect your health in a certain area.
Evidence is how much scientific support there is for the recommendation. Rankings are from 1 to 5 (low to high):



Impact

Impact scores range from 1-5. These scores reflect how much of an effect each recommendation can have. An impact score of 5 predicts the biggest effect.

When a recommendation affects something we can measure, we use those measurements to assign the impact score. For example, a recommendation that decreases cholesterol by 20% will have a higher impact score than one that decreases it by 5%.

Some recommendations affect things that we cannot directly measure, like stress or mood. For these, the impact score is based on how well they work relative to other recommendations and standard treatments. The best ones get the highest scores.

If there is a lot of research that shows a recommendation works especially well for your genotype, the impact score gets increased.

Recommendation Evidence

- 5 / 5
- Recommendations that are considered effective and generally recommended by experts and medical bodies.
-
- 4 / 5
- Recommendations that are considered likely effective and that have multiple independent meta-analyses and a great many studies supporting them.
-
- 3 / 5
- Recommendations that are considered possibly effective and have many studies supporting them
-
- 2 / 5
- Recommendations that have insufficient evidence, with two or several clinical trials supporting them, or many studies but with ambiguous results.
-
- 1 / 5
- Recommendations that have insufficient evidence, with a single clinical trial, or with many studies most of which didn’t find support for the recommendation.
-
- 0 / 5
- No evidence in humans.

Genotype-specific Evidence

- High-quality
- Direct evidence that a recommendation helps more in people with your gene variant (many clinical trials, a few large clinical trials, or a meta-analysis).
-
- Medium-quality
- Direct evidence that a recommendation helps more in people with your gene variant (a few clinical trials or one large clinical trial).
-
- Low-quality
- Direct evidence that a recommendation helps more in people with your gene variant (a single clinical trial or more trials with inconsistent results).
-
- Indirect
- A recommendation may help more in people with your gene variant because it targets a specific gene or protein affected by your variant (e.g., MTHFR, dopamine).
-
- In theory
- A recommendation may help more in people with your gene variant because it targets a specific mechanism affected by your variant (e.g., inflammation, oxidative stress).

Some things to keep in mind:

- Genetics doesn’t play a considerable role in a condition or a trait.
- There is not enough research available to estimate a genetic predisposition.
- There are technical limitations to estimating or presenting a genetic predisposition.
- The topic is sensitive, and a genetic predisposition should only be estimated and presented by a healthcare professional.

Introduction

Addison’s disease, also known as primary adrenal insufficiency, is a disorder that occurs when the adrenal glands do not produce enough of certain hormones. The most significant ones are cortisol, which helps regulate metabolism and the body's response to stress, and aldosterone, which helps control blood pressure.

People with Addison’s disease may experience chronic fatigue, muscle weakness, loss of appetite, weight loss, and increased pigmentation of the skin, particularly in areas of friction, scars, or pressure points.

Management

Treatment of Addison's disease typically requires hormone replacement therapy to correct the levels of steroid hormones that the body isn't producing. It is essential to manage this condition because an adrenal crisis, characterized by low blood pressure, vomiting, lower back pain, and loss of consciousness, can be life-threatening and requires immediate emergency treatment.

Ongoing management of Addison’s disease includes taking prescribed medications, monitoring blood pressure, and maintaining an adequate intake of salt. This may be especially urgent in hot weather or during gastrointestinal illnesses, when the risk of an adrenal crisis is heightened.



TYPICAL LIKELIHOOD

Typical likelihood of Addison's disease based on 186 genetic variants we looked at

Your Recommendations

Your recommendations are prioritized according to the likelihood of it having an impact for you based on your genetics, along with the amount of scientific evidence supporting the recommendation.

You’ll likely find common healthy recommendations at the top of the list because they are often the most impactful and most researched.

DOSAGE		DOSAGE	
1	Avoid Iron Supplements (Unless Deficient)	2	DHEA (Dehydroepiandrosterone)25 mg
3	Dietary Zinc	4	Sleep for 7+ Hours
5	Dietary Vitamin B12	6	Vitamin B12100 mcg
7	Zinc15 mg	8	Regular Sleep Schedule
9	Support Groups	10	Maintain Optimal Vitamin D Levels1000 iu
11	Stress Management Therapy1 hour	12	Avoid Processed High Phosphate Foods
13	Dietary Vitamin C	14	Dietary Folate
15	Avoid Refined Sugar	16	Vitamin C2000 mg

1



Avoid Iron Supplements (Unless Deficient)

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Only take iron supplements if a blood test shows you are iron deficient. If not deficient, do not use iron supplements. For those diagnosed with iron deficiency, follow your healthcare provider's instructions on the type and dosage of iron supplement to take.

Description

[Iron](#) (Fe) is an essential mineral. It helps make [hemoglobin](#), a protein that carries oxygen to cells. In this way, iron **increases energy** and supports **brain and immune system function** [\[R, R, R\]](#).

Avoiding unnecessary iron supplements, particularly without a confirmed deficiency, can prevent the risk of iron overload, which can lead to health issues like hemochromatosis and oxidative stress.

However, too much iron can be bad for the body. It can deposit into organs, such as the liver, heart and the pancreas. This can cause issues such as liver disease, heart problems and diabetes [\[R, R\]](#).

How it helps

In Addison's disease, managing the right levels of minerals and electrolytes is crucial. Iron supplements, if not needed, could interfere with this balance, potentially worsening the condition. It's better to monitor iron levels and only supplement if a deficiency is confirmed.

2



DHEA (Dehydroepiandrosterone)

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Take 25-50 mg of DHEA orally with water daily, preferably in the morning to mimic the body's natural rhythm of DHEA production. It is advisable to start at the lower dose to assess tolerance and adjust as needed. Consult a healthcare provider for personalized advice and before starting a new supplement regimen.

TYPICAL STARTING DOSE

25 mg

Description

DHEA is a hormone produced by the adrenal glands and has been used as a dietary supplement for various purposes, including supporting hormonal balance and energy levels. It may have potential benefits for specific individuals, but its use should be supervised by a healthcare professional due to its hormonal nature.

DHEA is a steroid hormone produced primarily by the adrenal glands. It is also produced to a much lesser extent by the testes and ovaries and, possibly, the brain [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#).

DHEA helps make the sex hormones [testosterone](#) and [estrogen](#). DHEA is important for [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#):

- Mood
- Immunity
- Muscle strength
- Bone health
- Skin health

DHEA is released in response to stress. In fact, one of DHEA's important roles is to protect against the adverse effects of prolonged and excessive exposure to cortisol, the stress hormone [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#).

How it helps

Dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA) is a hormone that can be low in people with Addison’s disease. Supplementing with DHEA may help improve energy, mood, and overall quality of life in individuals with this condition.

3



Dietary Zinc

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Incorporate foods high in zinc, such as beef, poultry, seafood (especially oysters), beans, nuts, and whole grains, into your daily diet. Aim for the recommended dietary allowance of zinc, which is 11 mg per day for adult men and 8 mg per day for adult women.

Description

Dietary zinc is essential for the body. It helps our immune system fight off bacteria and viruses, plays a role in healing wounds, and is essential for our sense of taste and smell. Without enough zinc, these systems may not work as effectively as they should.

How it helps

Zinc is essential for immune function, and supporting the body's healing processes. People with Addison’s disease may have altered zinc metabolism, so ensuring adequate zinc intake is beneficial.

4



Sleep for 7+ Hours

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Ensure you allocate enough time in your schedule to achieve a minimum of 7 hours of sleep each night. This might involve going to bed earlier or adjusting your evening routine to promote relaxation and make it easier to fall asleep.

Description

Optimizing sleep involves adopting healthy sleep habits and creating a sleep-conducive environment to ensure restorative and sufficient sleep duration. It supports cognitive function, mood stability, and overall physical health. Most experts recommend getting **at least 7 hours of good-quality sleep each night**.

[Sleep](#) supports your body and mind [\[R, R\]](#). More precisely, sleep helps:

- Support brain health [\[R, R\]](#)
- Maintain a healthy weight and appetite [\[R, R, R\]](#)
- Regulate blood pressure [\[R, R\]](#)
- Balance blood sugar [\[R, R\]](#)

Ways to sleep better include [\[R\]](#):

- Reducing your bright light exposure (screen time) in the evenings
- Sticking to a regular sleep schedule
- Avoiding hunger or large meals before bed
- Avoiding nicotine, caffeine, and alcohol before bed
- Maintaining a sleep area that’s cool, dark, and quiet

How it helps

Getting adequate sleep helps regulate overall body function and hormone levels, which is critical for people with Addison's disease.

5



Dietary Vitamin B12

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Incorporate foods rich in vitamin B12 into your daily diet, such as beef, chicken, fish, and dairy products. If you are vegetarian or vegan, consider fortified cereals or plant-based milks. Aim to meet the recommended dietary allowance (RDA) for adults of 2.4 micrograms of vitamin B12 per day.

Description

Vitamin B12 is important for nerve function, red blood cell production, and overall energy metabolism. It's crucial for preventing pernicious anemia and maintaining neurological health.

How it helps

Vitamin B12 is essential for maintaining healthy nerve cells and producing DNA. People with Addison’s disease often have low levels of B12, which can lead to fatigue and weakness. Supplementing B12 can help improve energy levels.

6



Vitamin B12

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Take a 50 mcg vitamin B12 supplement daily, preferably with a meal to enhance absorption.

TYPICAL STARTING DOSE

100 mcg

Description

Vitamin B12 is a water-soluble vitamin primarily found in animal-based foods like meat, fish, and dairy products. It plays a crucial role in maintaining healthy nerve cells, DNA synthesis, and red blood cell formation. Vitamin B12 deficiency can lead to anemia, neurological issues, and fatigue.

[Vitamin B12](#) is important for [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#):

- Building DNA
- Nervous system function
- Energy production

You can get vitamin B12 from [\[R\]](#):

- Animal products (meat, fish, eggs, and dairy)
- Fortified foods
- Supplements

Adults should be getting **2.4 micrograms** of vitamin B12 every day [\[R\]](#).

How it helps

Vitamin B12 is essential for nerve function and the production of red blood cells, which can be affected in Addison’s disease.

7



Zinc

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Take a 15 mg zinc supplement daily, ideally with a meal to enhance absorption.

TYPICAL STARTING DOSE

15 mg

Description

Zinc is an essential mineral found in various foods, including meat, dairy, and nuts. It is crucial for immune function, wound healing, DNA synthesis, and maintaining healthy skin and nails. Zinc supplements are sometimes used to support immune health and manage zinc deficiencies.

[Zinc](#) is an essential mineral. Your body needs it to [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#):

- Defend against disease
- Protect DNA from damage
- Heal wounds
- Control blood sugar

Some of the best sources of zinc include **shellfish, pork, beef, and beans**. It is also available as a supplement [\[R\]](#).

Adults should get **8-11 mg of zinc** per day [\[R\]](#).

How it helps

Zinc supports immune function, which is often weakened in individuals with Addison’s disease.

8



Regular Sleep Schedule

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Go to bed and wake up at the same time every day, even on weekends and holidays. This helps regulate your body's internal clock, leading to better sleep quality. Aim for 7-9 hours of sleep per night.

Description

Maintaining a regular sleep schedule involves going to bed and waking up at consistent times each day. This practice helps regulate the body's internal clock and promotes better sleep quality, mood, and cognitive function.

How it helps

Maintaining a regular sleep schedule can help regulate the body's circadian rhythm, aiding in better hormonal balance and overall well-being.

9



Support Groups

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Attend a support group meeting related to your condition at least once a week. These meetings can be found through local hospitals, online platforms, or health organizations specific to your condition. Participation can be in-person or virtual, depending on what is offered and your preference.

Description

Support groups are gatherings of individuals facing similar challenges, where they can share experiences, emotions, and coping strategies. They offer emotional support, camaraderie, and valuable insights for those dealing with various health conditions or life circumstances.

Support groups involve people with similar struggles helping each other. Support groups usually take place in a casual setting. During sessions, people share their [\[R\]](#):

- Knowledge
- Experiences
- Coping strategies
- Understanding of the recovery process

Support groups may help support recovery from addictions [\[R\]](#).

How it helps

Support groups provide emotional support and practical advice for managing Addison's disease, which can improve quality of life.

10



Maintain Optimal Vitamin D Levels

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Check your vitamin D levels, they should ideally be in the 30-66 ng/mL range. If your levels are lower than that, take a vitamin D supplement, 1000-4000 IU daily, to reach an optimal range.

TYPICAL STARTING DOSE

1000 iu

Description

Vitamin D, often referred to as the "sunshine vitamin," can be synthesized by the skin when exposed to sunlight, as well as being found in fish, eggs, and fortified milk. It helps regulate calcium absorption, promoting strong bones and a healthy immune system. Vitamin D deficiency can lead to conditions like rickets in children and osteoporosis in adults.

Your body needs [vitamin D](#) for strong bones. Vitamin D also plays a role in [\[R\]](#):

- Mood
- Immunity
- Heart health
- Blood sugar control

[Sunlight](#) is our main source of vitamin D. Experts recommend getting at least **5-15 minutes of midday sun, 2-3 times per week**. People with darker skin and those living at high latitudes may need longer periods of sun exposure [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#).

Foods like fish, eggs, and fortified milk provide small amounts of vitamin D. **People lacking vitamin D should consider taking a supplement** [\[R\]](#).

How it helps

Vitamin D supports bone health and the immune system, both of which can be compromised in Addison's disease.

11

Stress Management Therapy

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Engage in stress management therapy sessions, such as cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT), for at least 1 hour per week over a course of 8 to 12 weeks. Techniques can include mindfulness, deep breathing exercises, and identifying stressors to develop coping strategies.

TYPICAL STARTING DOSE

1 hour

Description

Stress management therapy refers to various techniques and approaches aimed at reducing and coping with stress. It can improve mental and physical well-being by helping individuals better manage the effects of stress on their health.

How it helps

Stress management therapy helps people with Addison's disease manage stress, which is important because stress can exacerbate adrenal insufficiency symptoms.

12

Avoid Processed High Phosphate Foods

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

To follow this recommendation, remove or significantly reduce processed foods such as sodas, packaged snacks, processed meats, and canned foods from your daily diet. Instead, opt for fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins. It's helpful to read nutrition labels, aiming to keep your daily phosphate intake below 700 mg if possible.

Description

Processed foods often have high levels of phosphate. These include fast foods and soda. Extra phosphate can make bones brittle and damage your blood vessels over time. So, it's healthier to choose fresh foods over processed ones.

How it helps

Processed foods high in phosphates can interfere with the body’s ability to manage calcium and phosphorus levels, which is particularly important in Addison’s disease where hormone production is crucial. Healthy kidney function is key for Addison's disease management, and reducing phosphate intake can support this.

13



Dietary Vitamin C

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Incorporate foods rich in Vitamin C into your daily diet, such as oranges, strawberries, red peppers, kale, and broccoli. Aim to consume 5 servings of fruits and vegetables per day to meet the recommended dietary allowance of Vitamin C, which is 90 mg for adult men and 75 mg for adult women.

Description

Vitamin C is an antioxidant that supports the immune system, collagen production, and wound healing. It also enhances iron absorption from plant-based foods and contributes to overall health.

[Vitamin C](#) is an essential nutrient. This means that our bodies can’t produce it on their own, so we have to get it from food or supplements [\[R\]](#).

Vitamin C has antioxidant properties. It supports immunity, heart health, and wound healing [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#).

Vitamin C deficiency is called *scurvy*. In the past, many sailors suffered from it [\[R\]](#).

How it helps

Vitamin C can support adrenal function and boost the immune system. People with Addison's disease may benefit from ensuring they have adequate vitamin C levels to support their overall health.

14



Dietary Folate

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Increase your intake of folate-rich foods such as leafy green vegetables, fruits, nuts, and legumes. Aim to consume these foods daily, incorporating them into various meals throughout the day to meet the recommended dietary allowance of 400 micrograms for adults.

Description

[Vitamin B9](#) (*folate*) plays an essential role in [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#):

- Making DNA
- Metabolism
- Energy production

Rich sources of folate include [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#):

- Beef liver
- Spinach
- Black-eyed peas
- Asparagus
- Citrus fruits

While folate deficiency is rare, it can happen in people who don’t eat enough fruits and vegetables. Alcoholics and lactating women may also be at increased risk [\[R\]](#).

Adults should get **400 micrograms (mcg)** of folate per day. Pregnant or breastfeeding women should get **500-600 mcg per day**. Supplements are usually in the form of *folic acid* or [L-methylfolate](#) (5-MTHF) [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#).

How it helps

Folate supports overall cell health and regeneration. It can be especially important for individuals with Addison's disease who may suffer from anemia and need to regenerate red blood cells.

15



Avoid Refined Sugar

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Eliminate foods and beverages high in refined sugars, such as sodas, candies, pastries, and white bread, from your diet. Replace them with natural sugars found in fruits and whole grains. Implement this change immediately and maintain it indefinitely for long-term health benefits.

Description

Reducing the consumption of refined sugar and high-sugar foods can help prevent dental problems, manage blood sugar levels, and support weight management.

How it helps

In Addison’s disease, managing blood sugar levels is critical. Refined sugars can cause rapid spikes and drops in blood sugar, which can exacerbate the symptoms of Addison's disease, such as fatigue and dizziness. Choosing complex carbohydrates or natural sugars can help maintain more stable blood sugar levels.

16



Vitamin C

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Take 500-2000 mg of vitamin C supplement daily. It can be taken at any time of the day, with or without food, according to personal preference or tolerance.

TYPICAL STARTING DOSE

2000 mg

Description

[Vitamin C](#) is an essential nutrient. This means that our bodies can’t produce it on their own, so we have to get it from food or supplements [\[R\]](#).

Foods rich in Vitamin C include: [\[R\]](#)

- Citrus Fruits
- Peppers
- Brussel sprouts
- Kiwi
- Broccoli
- Tomato
- Cantaloupe
- Cauliflower
- Spinach

Vitamin C has antioxidant properties. It supports immunity, heart health, and wound healing [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#).

Vitamin C deficiency is called *scurvy*. In the past, many sailors suffered from it [\[R\]](#).

How it helps

Vitamin C aids in immune function and may help boost adrenal function, which is crucial for those with Addison’s disease.

Next Steps

Remember, your genes only tell one important part of your health story!

Now that you've seen your DNA-based results for this health topic, let's take a look at other contributing factors.

Your lab results

Your lab results are impacted by the combined effect of your genes, environment and lifestyle.

Lab tests will give you the best picture of your current health status, while your genes provide insight into your health predispositions and which recommendations are best for you.

