

Bowel Incontinence

DNA Health Report

REPORT CATEGORY —



GUT HEALTH

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

Fecal incontinence, also known as bowel incontinence, is a condition characterized by the inability to control bowel movements, resulting in the unwanted release of stool. This can range in severity from occasional leakage of small amounts of stool while passing gas to a complete loss of bowel control.

It is a distressing condition that can significantly impact an individual's quality of life, leading to social isolation due to embarrassment and fear of an accident. Common causes can include muscle damage, especially to the anal sphincter or nerves, as in the case of childbirth or surgery, and chronic conditions that affect bowel habits, like inflammatory bowel disease or irritable bowel syndrome.

Management

Managing fecal incontinence often involves a multifaceted approach that includes dietary changes, medication, and sometimes surgery. Dietary management may focus on the consistency of stools, either bulking up loose stools with fiber supplements or softening hard stools to reduce straining. Medications can help reduce diarrhea or constipation and enhance sphincter tone.

In cases where conservative treatments are ineffective, surgical options, such as sphincter repair or the installation of a sacral nerve stimulator, may be considered. Additionally, pelvic floor physical therapy can be beneficial to strengthen the muscles involved in bowel control.



TYPICAL LIKELIHOOD

Typical likelihood of bowel incontinence based on 365 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	Biofeedback	2	Psyllium5 g
3	Acacia Fiber5 g	4	Prunes
5	Kegel Exercises5 seconds	6	Avoid Carbonated Beverages
7	Low-FODMAP Diet	8	Avoid Spicy Food
9	Saccharomyces Boulardii10 billion CFU	10	Oat Bran
11	Avoid Large Meals	12	Probiotics30 billion CFU
13	Probiotic Yogurt	14	Oats
15	Gelatin Tannate500 mg	16	Whole Grains
17	Eat Fiber-Rich Foods		

1



Biofeedback

IMPACT

2 / 5

EVIDENCE

2 / 5

How to implement

Attend biofeedback sessions once or twice a week for about 8 to 10 weeks. During these sessions, a therapist will guide you through exercises to control different body functions, such as heart rate or muscle tension, using monitors that provide feedback on your physiological state. Practice the techniques learned during sessions at home daily to improve symptoms and manage your condition.

Description

Biofeedback is a type of therapy that teaches people how to control certain body functions, such as heart rate, blood pressure, and muscle tension. It can be used to treat a variety of conditions, including stress, anxiety, and chronic pain.

Biofeedback is a kind of “**brain training**” in which sensors are attached to your body. They detect information like your heart rate, temperature, and breathing rate. By seeing this information, you may be better able to control these functions [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#).

Biofeedback is used to help with [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#):

- Gut problems
- Chronic pain
- Migraines
- Insomnia
- Attention

[Neurofeedback](#) is a form of biofeedback that measures brain activity in real time [\[R\]](#).

How it helps

Biofeedback may help with fecal incontinence according to two meta-analyses. Biofeedback may be most effective when combined with electrical stimulation, especially with amplitude-modulated medium-frequency stimulation [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#).

2



Psyllium

IMPACT

1 / 5

EVIDENCE

1 / 5

How to implement

Take 5 grams of psyllium husk powder with at least 8 ounces of water. Do this once daily, preferably in the morning before breakfast. Continue this regimen daily for ongoing digestive health benefits.

TYPICAL STARTING DOSE

5 g

Description

Psyllium is a plant-based dietary fiber derived from the seeds of the *Plantago ovata* plant. It is primarily used both traditionally and today, as a dietary supplement due to its high soluble fiber content, aiding in digestive health and regulating bowel movements. The main compounds in psyllium are soluble fiber and mucilage.

[Psyllium husk](#) might be beneficial for gut health and heart health. But what exactly is this supplement and how does it work?

Psyllium is an herb that grows around the world. Its “husk,” the outer coating of the psyllium seed, is full of fiber. The health benefits of psyllium husk are due to this fiber.

How it helps

Supplementation with psyllium fiber (16 g/day) decreased fecal incontinence in 2 non-placebo-controlled trials of 228 participants with this condition [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#).

3



Acacia Fiber

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Take 5-10 grams of acacia fiber supplement per day, mixed with at least 8 ounces of water. Do this daily, preferably in the morning, for ongoing gut health support. Be sure to start with a lower dose to assess tolerance and gradually increase to the desired amount.

TYPICAL STARTING DOSE

5 g

Description

Acacia fiber is a soluble dietary fiber derived from the gum of the Acacia tree. It is often used as a natural thickening agent in foods and supplements and can promote digestive health by supporting regular bowel movements, and serve as a prebiotic.

How it helps

Acacia fiber is a type of soluble fiber that absorbs water in the intestine, forming a gel-like substance. This can help increase stool bulk and improve consistency, making it easier to control bowel movements. Soluble fibers like acacia are fermented by gut bacteria, which can positively impact the gut flora, potentially offering additional benefits for individuals with fecal incontinence by enhancing overall digestive health.

4



Prunes

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Eat 5-6 prunes daily, either as a snack or incorporated into meals, to help improve digestion and potentially bone health. Continue this habit consistently for at least a few weeks to observe benefits.

Description

Prunes are dried plums that are rich in dietary fiber, vitamins, and minerals, particularly potassium and vitamin K, as well as antioxidants. They are often consumed to support digestive health and may help regulate bowel movements.

Prunes are a good source of omega-6 fatty acids, vitamin A and B6, potassium, iron, magnesium, and copper. A ½ cup serving provides 635 mcg or 14%DV.

How it helps

Prunes and prune juice are natural laxatives that can help manage constipation, which is a common contributing factor to fecal incontinence by straining the muscles used to control bowel movements. Controlled intake may improve consistency and reduce incontinence.

5

Kegel Exercises

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Perform Kegel exercises by tightening your pelvic floor muscles (as if you are trying to stop urinating mid-flow) for 5 seconds, then relax for 5 seconds. Repeat this process 10 times in a row, at least 3 times a day (morning, afternoon, and night).

TYPICAL STARTING DOSE

5 seconds

Description

Kegel exercises are movements meant to strengthen the muscles around your bladder, anus, and genitals. They are named after the doctor who first described them.

Kegel exercises are movements meant to strengthen the muscles around your bladder, anus, and genitals. They are named after the doctor who first described them [\[R\]](#).

The exercises involve flexing and holding the pelvic floor muscles in the same manner one would try to hold in urine. To start, tighten for three seconds, then relax for three seconds. Build up to doing 10-15 repetitions, three times per day [\[R\]](#).

Kegel exercises may help with bladder control problems and sexual health [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#).

How it helps

Kegel exercises strengthen the pelvic floor muscles, which support the bladder and bowel. A stronger pelvic floor can help improve bowel control and reduce the symptoms of fecal incontinence.

6

Avoid Carbonated Beverages

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Stop consuming drinks like soda, sparkling water, and other carbonated beverages. If you're used to drinking these regularly, gradually reduce your intake by replacing one carbonated drink with a non-carbonated alternative, such as still water or herbal tea, each day until you no longer consume them.

Description

Avoiding carbonated beverages, particularly those high in sugar or artificial additives, can support dental health by reducing the risk of tooth decay and enamel erosion, and avoid potentially irritating the bladder.

How it helps

Carbonated drinks can increase gas production and lead to bloating, which may exacerbate fecal incontinence symptoms by adding pressure to the bowel.

7



Low-FODMAP Diet

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Eliminate foods high in FODMAPs (fermentable oligosaccharides, disaccharides, monosaccharides, and polyols) from your diet for 4 to 6 weeks. This includes certain fruits, vegetables, dairy products, grains, and sweeteners. After the elimination phase, gradually reintroduce foods one at a time to identify triggers.

Description

The low FODMAP diet is used to manage symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) and other gastrointestinal disorders. It involves restricting certain fermentable carbohydrates to reduce digestive discomfort and improve gut health.

FODMAPs are a group of carbs that are hard to digest. Rather than being absorbed by the intestines, these carbs are fermented by your gut bacteria. A product of fermentation is gas [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#).

FODMAPs also pull fluid into your gut. This may promote diarrhea [\[R\]](#).

Foods high in FODMAPs include [\[R\]](#):

- High-fructose corn syrup
- Artificial sweeteners
- Apples
- Corn
- Dairy
- Beans

A **[low-FODMAP diet](#)** limits the intake of **FODMAPs**. Some health experts recommend it for IBS and other digestive issues [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#).

How it helps

The low-FODMAP diet reduces intake of specific fermentable carbohydrates that can cause diarrhea and bloating, thereby potentially improving symptoms of fecal incontinence.

8



Avoid Spicy Food

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Eliminate or significantly reduce consumption of foods high in spices, such as hot peppers, curry, and salsa, from your daily diet.

Description

For individuals sensitive to spicy foods, avoiding excessively hot or spicy dishes can prevent digestive discomfort and heartburn, promoting better gastrointestinal comfort and overall well-being.

How it helps

Spicy foods can irritate the digestive tract and exacerbate fecal incontinence symptoms by increasing stool frequency and urgency.

9



Saccharomyces Boulardii

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Take Saccharomyces boulardii as an oral supplement, typically available in capsule or powder form, twice daily with a glass of water. Continue this regimen for 4-8 weeks, or as directed by a healthcare provider.

TYPICAL STARTING DOSE

10 billion CFU

Description

Saccharomyces boulardii is a beneficial yeast often used as a probiotic supplement to support digestive health and prevent or alleviate symptoms of diarrhea, including those caused by antibiotics or infections.

How it helps

Saccharomyces boulardii is a probiotic that can help improve the overall health of the gut microbiota. By enhancing gut health, it can help regulate bowel movements and improve the gut barrier function, potentially reducing episodes of fecal incontinence.

10



Oat Bran

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Incorporate oat bran into your diet by adding 1-2 tablespoons to your breakfast cereal or yogurt daily. You can also use it as an ingredient in homemade bread, muffins, or pancakes. Aim to include oat bran in at least one meal per day for ongoing dietary benefits.

Description

Oat bran is the outer layer of oat grains and is rich in soluble fiber, making it a heart-healthy addition to diets. Consuming oat bran may help lower cholesterol levels and support digestive regularity.

How it helps

Oat bran is high in soluble fiber, which can help bulk up stool and make it easier to control bowel movements. Including oat bran in the diet can improve bowel function and reduce symptoms of fecal incontinence.

11



Avoid Large Meals

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Divide your daily food intake into smaller portions spread out over five to six times a day instead of having three large meals. Ensure that each portion is balanced and includes a variety of nutrients. This means having breakfast, a mid-morning snack, lunch, an afternoon snack, dinner, and possibly a light evening snack, depending on your caloric needs.

Description

Eating smaller, more frequent meals may help prevent overeating. This involves eating the same number of meals at about the same times every day. Doing so may help with issues like blood pressure, body weight, cholesterol levels, and migraines.

Eating smaller, more frequent meals may help prevent overeating. One way to do this is to keep a regular meal schedule. This involves eating the same number of meals at about the same times every day. Doing so may help [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#):

- Manage blood pressure
- Balance the internal clock
- Maintain a healthy body weight
- Support healthy cholesterol levels
- Prevent migraines

How it helps

Eating smaller, more frequent meals can help regulate bowel movements by reducing the load on the digestive tract, potentially easing fecal incontinence.

12



Probiotics

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Take a probiotic supplement containing 10 billion or more live cultures once daily, preferably with a meal or as directed by the packaging or a healthcare provider.

TYPICAL STARTING DOSE
30 billion CFU

Description

Probiotics are live beneficial bacteria and yeasts that can support gut health and digestive function when consumed as supplements or found in fermented foods like yogurt and sauerkraut. They may be beneficial to gut health, immune function, blood sugar, and mood.

[Probiotic bacteria](#) are “good” bacteria found mainly in the large intestine. They support your body and mind by [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#):

- Maintaining gut health
- Supporting a healthy immune system
- Improving your mood
- Helping to maintain healthy blood sugar

Prebiotics are certain types of fiber and other complex carbs that serve as food for gut bacteria. **They support gut health by helping boost the activity and growth of “good” bacteria** [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#).

Prebiotics are also added to foods and supplements. Common prebiotic ingredients are [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#):

- Oligo-fructose
- Oligo-galactose
- [Inulin](#)

Mixtures of probiotics and prebiotics are known as **synbiotics** [\[R\]](#).

How it helps

Probiotics help by balancing the gut microbiota. A healthier microbiome can improve bowel regularity and consistency of stools, which may help manage fecal incontinence.

13



Probiotic Yogurt

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Consume one to two servings of probiotic yogurt each day. Each serving is typically 6 to 8 ounces. Continue this practice daily for at least 1 to 2 weeks to begin noticing benefits to digestive health.

Description

Probiotic yogurt is a dairy product containing live probiotic cultures like Lactobacillus and Bifidobacterium, which can aid digestion and improve gut health when consumed regularly. It is a good source of calcium, protein, and probiotics, contributing to bone health and digestive well-being.

How it helps

Probiotics found in yogurt can positively affect gut flora balance, aiding in digestion and possibly reducing episodes of fecal incontinence. Healthy gut flora can improve bowel movement consistency and control.

14



Oats

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Incorporate oats into your diet daily by having them for breakfast as oatmeal, or adding them to smoothies, baking recipes, or overnight oats. Aim for at least a half-cup (40 grams) of dry oats to reap the health benefits.

Description

Oats are a whole grain known for their high fiber content and nutritional value, like zinc, iron, and manganese. Including oats in one's diet can promote heart health, stabilize blood sugar levels, and provide sustained energy.

Oats are a good source for manganese, zinc, iron, magnesium, and vitamins B1 and B5. A ½ cup serving provides 0.7 mg of manganese or 30%DV.

How it helps

Similar to oat bran, oats are rich in soluble fiber. They can help in managing fecal incontinence by absorbing water, which aids in forming a more solid and manageable stool, decreasing the likelihood of incontinence episodes.

15



Gelatin Tannate

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Take gelatin tannate 250-500 mg up to 2-4 times daily with a large glass of water. This supplement is usually used for short-term relief, so consider using it for no longer than one week unless advised by a healthcare professional.

TYPICAL STARTING DOSE

500 mg

Description

Gelatin tannate is a compound sometimes used to support digestive health and alleviate symptoms of conditions like diarrhea and irritable bowel syndrome (IBS). It may help reduce intestinal inflammation and provide relief from gastrointestinal discomfort.

How it helps

Gelatin tannate helps by forming a protective layer over the intestinal lining. This barrier can reduce inflammation and leakiness, potentially improving fecal incontinence by making stools more formed and less frequent.

16



Whole Grains

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Incorporate at least three servings of whole grains into your daily diet. This can include consuming foods such as whole grain bread, brown rice, whole grain pasta, and oats. Aim to replace refined grains with whole grains at each meal for optimal benefits.

Description

Whole grains encompass a variety of grains like wheat, oats, and quinoa, where the entire grain kernel is intact. They are rich in fiber, vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants, supporting heart health and reducing the risk of chronic diseases.

Unlike refined grains, whole grains contain nutritious parts of the grain like bran and germ.

Whole grains provide many crucial nutrients, including:

- Fiber
- B-vitamins
- Iron
- Magnesium
- Phosphorus

Due to their high fiber content, whole grains don’t tend to spike blood sugar like refined grains do.

How it helps

Whole grains are another good source of dietary fiber, which helps to regularize bowel movements and reduce urgency. Regular consumption of whole grains can support healthy digestive system function and alleviate the symptoms of bowel urgency.

17



Eat Fiber-Rich Foods

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Incorporate foods high in fiber, such as fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and legumes, into your daily meals. Aim for a total dietary fiber intake of 25 to 30 grams per day, spread out over all meals.

Description

Fiber is a type of carb that your body can’t digest which supports digestion, heart health, and blood sugar control. You can get fiber by eating things like whole grains, fruits, nuts, seeds, and leafy greens.

Fiber is a type of carb that your body can’t digest. It supports digestion, heart health, blood sugar control, and more [\[R, R\]](#).

Adults should get 28 g of fiber every day. Most people in the US don’t get enough fiber [\[R, R\]](#).

You can get more fiber by eating [\[R, R\]](#):

- Whole grains
- Fruits
- Leafy greens
- Nuts and seeds
- Beans
- Broccoli

Fiber supplements, such as [psyllium husk](#), are available for people who don’t get enough fiber from their diets [\[R, R\]](#).

How it helps

A diet rich in fiber can help regulate bowel movements by adding bulk to the stool, making it easier to control bowel movements and potentially improving fecal incontinence.