

Hiatus Hernia

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

A hiatus hernia, also known as a hiatal hernia, occurs when part of the stomach pushes upward through the diaphragm. The diaphragm normally has a small opening—the hiatus—through which the esophagus passes before connecting to the stomach.

In this condition, the stomach protrudes through this opening into the chest cavity. This can lead to gastroesophageal reflux, as the separation between the stomach and esophagus is compromised. People with this condition may experience symptoms such as heartburn, regurgitation, and difficulty swallowing, though some individuals with a small hiatal hernia might not have any symptoms at all.

Types and Treatment

Hiatus hernia is commonly categorized into two types: sliding and paraesophageal. The more prevalent type (sliding) occurs when the stomach and part of the esophagus slide up into the chest.

On the other hand, a paraesophageal hernia happens when part of the stomach squeezes through the hiatus, positioning itself next to the esophagus. While sliding hernias can be managed with lifestyle changes and medication, paraesophageal hernias might require surgical intervention due to the risk of the stomach becoming strangulated—cut off from blood supply—which is a medical emergency.



TYPICAL LIKELIHOOD

Typical likelihood of hiatus hernia based on 640,581 genetic variants we looked at



Your top variants that most likely impact your genetic predisposition:

GENE	SNP	GENOTYPE
EFEMP1	rs10207635	AA
/	rs4499560	AA
BTN3A2	rs9393735	AA
WT1	rs11031796	GG
REX1BD	rs2891698	GG
CALD1	rs4728341	TT
ADAMTS16	rs42202	GG
BARX1	rs4075733	TT

The number of "risk" variants in this table doesn't necessarily reflect your overall result.

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 Overeating	2	Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) 2 hours
3	Avoid Meals 3-4 Hours Before Bedtime	4	Stress Management Therapy 1 hour
5	Avoid Sugary Foods & Drinks	6	Bed Head Elevation
7	Avoid Lifting Heavy Objects	8	Avoid Large Meals
9	Walking 30 minutes	10	Avoid Carbonated Beverages
11	Whole Grains	12	Good Posture
13	Avoid Spicy Food	14	Melatonin 500 mcg

1



Avoid Overeating

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Consume meals slowly, taking time to chew your food thoroughly and pausing between bites to allow your body to signal when it is full. Aim to stop eating when you feel about 80% full rather than waiting until you feel uncomfortably full. Implement this practice at every meal and snack, making it a consistent part of your daily eating habits.

Description

People who overeat take in more food than their body needs. Overeating may contribute to obesity and diabetes, as well as digestive and sleep problems.

People who overeat take in more food than their body needs.

Overeating may contribute to [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#):

- Obesity
- Diabetes
- Digestive problems
- Sleep problems

How it helps

Overeating can increase stomach pressure, which may worsen the symptoms of a hiatus hernia by pushing stomach contents back up into the esophagus.

2



Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR)

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Enroll in an 8-week MBSR course, which includes a weekly 2.5-hour class, one all-day class after the sixth week, and 45 minutes of daily home practice guided by assignments and instructional recordings.

TYPICAL STARTING DOSE

2 hours

Description

Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) is a structured program that teaches mindfulness techniques to reduce stress and improve overall mental and emotional health. MBSR has been shown to help individuals cope with chronic pain, anxiety, and other stress-related conditions.

How it helps

MBSR helps reduce stress, which can indirectly minimize gastrointestinal symptoms and the discomfort associated with a hiatus hernia.

3



Avoid Meals 3-4 Hours Before Bedtime

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Finish your last meal of the day at least 3 to 4 hours before you go to sleep. For example, if you usually go to bed at 10 pm, aim to have dinner no later than 6 pm to 7 pm.

Description

Avoiding meals, especially heavy meals, close to bedtime can help prevent digestive discomfort, indigestion, and disrupted sleep patterns. Opting for lighter evening meals promotes better digestion and overall sleep quality.

How it helps

Eating close to bedtime can cause stomach acid to enter the esophagus while lying down, worsening symptoms of hiatus hernia. Avoiding meals 3-4 hours before bedtime can help reduce this issue.

4



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 can help reduce the frequency and severity of hiatus hernia symptoms by lowering stomach acid production and promoting better digestion.

5



Avoid Sugary Foods & Drinks

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

To avoid sugary foods, eliminate or significantly reduce consumption of foods and beverages high in added sugars such as sodas, candies, baked goods, and sugary cereals from your diet. Instead, opt for natural sugar sources like fruits. Aim to do this daily for ongoing health benefits.

Description

High-sugar foods like baked goods, sweets, and sugary drinks, can spike your blood sugar levels. Consuming a lot of these types of foods can contribute to health issues like diabetes, obesity, insomnia, and heart disease.

High-sugar foods and refined carbs have a high glycemic index (GI). This means they tend to spike your blood sugar levels. They include [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#):

- Sugary drinks
- Baked goods
- Sweets
- White bread
- White rice
- Pasta

Eating a lot of sugary foods can contribute to:

- Diabetes [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#)
- Weight gain and obesity [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#)
- Insomnia [\[R\]](#)
- Heart disease [\[R\]](#)

You may also want to avoid processed sugars and sugary drinks. They may have a role in increasing IL-1B [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#).

How it helps

Sugary foods can contribute to obesity, which increases abdominal pressure and can worsen hiatus hernia symptoms by promoting acid reflux.

6



Bed Head Elevation

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Elevate the head of your bed by 6 to 8 inches using blocks or wedges under the bedposts or a foam wedge under the mattress. Maintain this setup continuously every night during sleep to mitigate symptoms related to GERD or acid reflux.

Description

Elevating the head of the bed or using pillows to raise the upper body while sleeping can alleviate symptoms of acid reflux or gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD). It helps prevent stomach acid from flowing back into the esophagus, promoting better sleep and reducing discomfort.

How it helps

Elevating the head of the bed helps reduce reflux symptoms that might be exacerbated by a hiatus hernia. This position uses gravity to help prevent stomach acid from moving back into the esophagus while sleeping, providing relief from heartburn and discomfort.

7



Avoid Lifting Heavy Objects

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Refrain from picking up items that require significant strain or exertion, typically defined as those weighing more than 25 pounds (11 kilograms), to avoid unnecessary pressure on your body. This restriction should be adhered to as long as your healthcare provider advises, which may be indefinitely for chronic conditions or for a specific recovery period following surgery or injury.

Description

Avoiding improper lifting techniques when handling heavy objects can help prevent back injuries and musculoskeletal strain. Practicing safe lifting methods and using proper equipment promotes spine and musculoskeletal health.

How it helps

Lifting heavy objects increases pressure within the abdomen, which can worsen hiatus hernia symptoms by pushing the stomach further through the diaphragm.

8



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 large meals can increase stomach pressure and cause or exacerbate symptoms of hiatus hernia. Smaller, more frequent meals can help minimize this risk.

9



Walking

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Incorporate at least 30 minutes of brisk walking into your daily routine, aiming for a minimum of five days a week. This can be done in one continuous session or broken into shorter periods, such as three 10-minute walks throughout the day.

TYPICAL STARTING DOSE

30 minutes

Description

Walking is a low-impact form of exercise that can contribute to cardiovascular fitness, weight management, and improved overall health. It is used to support physical activity goals, enhance mood, and promote better cardiovascular health.

How it helps

Regular walking can promote digestive health and help regulate body weight, which might reduce the pressure on the stomach and lower the risk of hernia symptoms.

10



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 beverages can increase stomach pressure, which may promote the reflux of stomach contents into the esophagus, worsening symptoms of hiatus hernia.

11



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 beneficial for people with hiatus hernia because they are high in fiber. Fiber can help in managing symptoms by promoting better digestion and reducing the risk of constipation, which may prevent additional pressure on the hernia.

12



Good Posture

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Ensure your back is straight, shoulders pulled back but relaxed, and your head is aligned above your shoulders when sitting or standing. When sitting, keep your feet flat on the ground, and use a chair that supports your lower back. Do this continuously throughout the day, reminding yourself to adjust your posture whenever you notice it lapsing.

Description

Maintaining good posture helps prevent musculoskeletal problems, reduces the risk of back and neck pain, and supports overall spinal health. Proper posture can also enhance self-confidence and improve breathing and digestion.

Good posture may help lessen strain on your body. It involves keeping your head, shoulders, and hips aligned [\[R\]](#).

Forward head posture is a type of poor posture in which the head is pushed forward or tilted down toward the chest. This posture is common when using computers or smartphones [\[R\]](#).

Poor posture may lead to [\[R\]](#), [\[R\]](#):

- Muscle pain
- Headaches
- Breathing problems

How it helps

Practicing good posture, especially when sitting or standing, can minimize pressure on the abdomen and reduce symptoms associated with a hiatus hernia.

13



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 esophagus and stomach, exacerbating the symptoms of a hiatus hernia, such as heartburn and acid reflux.

14



Melatonin

IMPACT

0 / 5

EVIDENCE

0 / 5

How to implement

Take 500 mcg of melatonin orally, about 30 minutes before bedtime, to help with sleep. It can be taken daily as needed.

TYPICAL STARTING DOSE
500 mcg

Description

Melatonin is a natural hormone produced by the pineal gland in the brain that helps regulate the sleep-wake cycle. It plays a crucial role in promoting sleep onset and maintaining a consistent sleep pattern, making it a commonly used supplement for managing sleep disorders and jet lag.

[Melatonin](#) is an important sleep hormone. Bright light at night may prevent your body from making enough melatonin [\[R, R, R\]](#).

Your body makes melatonin on its own. However, some people take melatonin supplements to help them sleep. It may help with jet lag in particular [\[R, R, R\]](#).

How it helps

Melatonin helps improve lower esophageal sphincter (LES) function, reducing reflux and symptoms associated with hiatus hernia.