



FREE TO TAKE HOME!



STI's



Shin Splints



Gestational Diabetes



Over 65 and exercising?

DECEMBER - JANUARY 2021 EDITION

BULK BILLING MEDICAL CENTRE

DOCTORS & THEIR INTERESTS

Dr Betty Patapis MBBS, FRACGP
Women & Children's Health

Dr Elaine Caplan MBBS
General Medicine

Dr Robert Vial
MBBS, BMedSc, FRACGP, FACNEM
General and Nutritional Medicine

Dr Fung Cheung MBBS, FRACGP
Minor Surgery

Dr Christel Romano MBBS
Women and Children's Health

Dr Paul Klemes MBBS, FRACGP
General Medicine

Dr John Cooper MBBS
General Medicine

Dr Lakshmi Kadaba MBBS
General Medicine

Dr Ravi Jayalath MBBS, FRACGP

Dr Charles Hayes MBBS

Dr Greg Cesco MBBS

ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Mark Brackett Physiotherapist

Neeti Chadha Audiologist

Joanne Schmidt Psychologist

Mo Maarj Podiatrist

Available for appointment Monday to Saturday. Please call **9998 3400** for appointments.

SURGERY HOURS

Monday to Friday 7am – 9pm

Saturday 7am – 8pm

Sunday 8am – 6pm

Public Holidays 8am – 6pm

PHARMACY 9998 1900

Monday to Friday 7.30am – 9pm

Saturday 8am – 8pm

Sunday 8am – 6pm

APPOINTMENTS

Privately billed appointments are available 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday with all Doctors. Please enquire at Reception or phone the Centre.

Booking a long appointment. If you want an insurance medical, review of a complex health problem or a procedure etc., please book a longer appointment.

AFTER HOURS & EMERGENCY

SYDNEY MEDICAL CO OP LTD: Ph **1300 466 347**

Bulk billed home visits are available. Patients can call from 4pm weekdays, Saturday from 10am and all day Sunday & public holidays.

In case of a medical emergency dial **000** and ask for an ambulance.

OTHER SERVICES OFFERED

- Pathology
- Dentist (Private Billed)
- Menopause Counselling
- Skin Cancer Checks
- Family Planning
- Vaccinations
- Medicals
- Minor Surgery
- STD checks

BILLING ARRANGEMENTS

The Centre bulk bills all patients who present with a Medicare Card. Private appointments are available. Fees are displayed at reception.

Workers Compensation, ancillary services and overseas are charged AMA rates. Fees vary according to the complexity of the service or if a procedure is performed.

Payments can be made by **cash, cheque, Visa, Mastercard and EFTPOS.**

SPECIAL PRACTICE NOTES

Patient Feedback. We welcome your comments or suggestions. Please feel free to talk to your GP or the Practice Manager regarding any issues. If you prefer, you can contact the Health Care Complaints Commission, LOCKED BAG 18, Strawberry Hills 2012.

Test Results. Results are reviewed by the doctors and acted on in a timely manner, with your health in mind. We will contact you if necessary.

Communication. A doctor is available during normal surgery hours for emergency advice. Our staff are experienced in deciding the appropriate response to any phone request.

Patient Privacy. This practice protects your personal health information to ensure it is only available to authorised staff members for the intended purposes and to comply with the Privacy Act. To obtain a copy of our Privacy Statement or your medical records, please ask.

YOUR NEXT APPOINTMENT:

ENJOY THIS FREE NEWSLETTER

Please remember that decisions about medical care should be made in consultation with your health care provider so discuss with your doctor before acting on any of the information.

www.healthnews.net.au

▶ Please see the Rear Cover for more practice information.



Sexually transmitted infections (STI's)

The term Sexually transmitted infections (STI's) applies to a group of infections that are predominantly spread by sexual contact. The group is diverse in both symptoms and severity. It includes Chlamydia, gonorrhoea, hepatitis B, hepatitis C (some people do not classify this as an STI) syphilis, HIV (AIDS) and herpes simplex.

The symptoms depend on the infection. The most common symptoms of an STI are pain or burning with passing urine, discharge from the penis or vagina, discomfort in the pelvis and sores on the genitals or groin. It is important to note that there may be no symptoms.

The best form of treatment is prevention so practising safe sex is the key. It is also important to have STI screening tests if you are sexually active and not in a monogamous relationship. This can be arranged by your GP and involves both a blood and urine test.

Treatment depends on what is diagnosed.

Chlamydia is by far the commonest STI and is easily treated with antibiotics. Gonorrhoea and syphilis are also treated with antibiotics. Treatment for hepatitis or HIV is far more complex. Fortunately, these conditions are less common. There is a vaccination against hepatitis B.

If you have any symptoms you are concerned about, ask your GP. If you are diagnosed with an STI, it is important to notify people you have been with so they can be treated too. Some STIs have to be reported by your GP to the health department who track cases of some infections. Do not be alarmed about this.



Gestational Diabetes

This is a rise in blood sugar during pregnancy, which generally returns to normal after giving birth. It affects 3% to 8% of pregnant women and typically starts between week 24 and 28, hence there is routine blood testing for glucose at this stage of pregnancy. The test is a glucose tolerance test where blood is taken before and after consuming a glucose drink

Risk factors for gestational diabetes include being overweight, being over age 30, having a family history of diabetes and having had gestational diabetes in a prior pregnancy. People of Chinese Polynesian, Vietnamese and Indigenous Australian background are at increased risk.

During pregnancy, hormones from the placenta help the baby grow. However, they can block the effects of maternal insulin leading to insulin resistance. It is estimated that insulin requirements when pregnant can be three times normal. For some people, the body doesn't handle the load and thus gestational diabetes develops. When insulin levels drop post-delivery, blood sugars can return to normal.

Gestational diabetes increases your chances of developing Type 2 diabetes later in life, but it is not a given. It does not mean your baby is born diabetic.

Eating a healthy diet, doing regular exercise and maintaining a healthy weight all reduce the risk.

If you have gestational diabetes, it is important to monitor and control sugar levels in the bloodstream. This means eating a healthy diet low in sugars and refined carbohydrates. You may benefit from seeing a dietician. Regular exercise helps.

Shin Splints

Shin splints are a common condition seen in runners and those who play sports involving running and rapid acceleration.

The exact cause is not known but is thought to be due to repeated stress on the shinbone, and it's attaching connective tissue. It is more common in females and those with a previous leg injury and in those often running on hard or uneven surfaces.

The typical symptom is pain in the shin with running. There may be associated swelling. At first, the pain is when one starts running and eases after warming up. As the condition advances, pain persists for longer and can even continue after ceasing exercise.

Diagnosis is based mainly on the history. There is no diagnostic test. X-rays (or rarely, an MRI scan) may be done to rule out other causes such as a stress fracture.

There is no specific treatment. Ice packs and simple painkillers provide symptom relief in the short term. Rest and avoiding activity, which worsens the pain, is key. However, you don't need to stop all exercise. Swimming or walking in water are two options to maintain fitness.

Attention to training techniques can be helpful. Use of orthotics or insoles may also help as can change of shoes. For the more serious athlete, having a biomechanical assessment of their running style may lead to technique changes, which are beneficial.



 <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/ConditionsAndTreatments/shin-splints>

 <https://www.diabetesaustralia.com.au/about-diabetes/gestational-diabetes/>



Over 65 and exercising?

Work on strength, balance & coordination.

We often think of exercise as running swimming or other cardiovascular type pursuits. This is important for fitness, but other exercises can be just as important. As we get older resistance (or weights) based exercise maintains bone strength and also muscle mass. This reduces the chances of getting osteoporosis (brittle bones) and sarcopenia (loss of muscle mass). You are never too old.

Research in NSW looked at resistance

training in people with an average age of 89 and found that people could make new muscle at the age of 102! And you do not have to be Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Start with lighter weights and increase slowly. You do not have to purchase weights. Exercises using the body's own weight such as push-ups can be very effective. Consider getting input from a physiotherapist or trainer. Do not try to be a hero!

Exercise that improves balance and

coordination can reduce the chances of falls, which is increasingly important as years go by. Pilates, yoga, Tai Chi are three examples. Start at a low level and increase slowly. Get good instruction, so you do it right.

The key to exercise is consistency, doing exercise that you enjoy and of course, not getting injured. Those exercising regularly enjoy better mental health and tend to be more resilient. The risks of heart disease stroke and bowel cancer are lowered too.

 [https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/F01F92328EDADA5BCA257BF0001E720D/\\$File/Tips&Ideas-Older-Aust-65plus.pdf](https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/F01F92328EDADA5BCA257BF0001E720D/$File/Tips&Ideas-Older-Aust-65plus.pdf)

Migraine

A migraine headache is a particular form of headache characterized by being one-sided and accompanied by nausea or vomiting and sensitivity to light. It can be preceded by a sensory warning (aura) such as flashes of light or tingling.



The term has come to be used to describe a severe headache, but whilst most migraines are severe in nature, not all severe headaches are migraines.

The exact cause is not known. Theories revolve around circulation to the brain and changes in serotonin levels within the brain. Both genetics and the environment play a role.

Around 90% of sufferers have a family history of migraines. Women are three times more likely to have migraines. Generally, they start before age 40. There are thought to be hormonal influences in some women as migraines may be more prevalent around the time of periods.

Some triggers include certain foods (alcohol, cheese, chocolate and MSG), stress, certain medications (e.g. The contraceptive pill) bright lights, strong smells and sudden changes in atmospheric

pressure. However, for many people, there are no identifiable triggers.

There is no specific test for migraine. It is diagnosed on history. Where tests are done it is to exclude other causes of headaches.

Treatment is with painkilling medications. Milder migraines may respond to over the counter tablets, but others will need prescription painkillers. Some specific migraine headache medications can be prescribed. They are only useful in migraine headaches but do not work for everyone. Ask your doctor about this. There are also preventative medications for people who have frequent migraines. Some new biologic medications have recently been approved for this use. None are an absolute cure.

Simple measures that can help are maintaining good hydration, getting enough sleep, managing stress and avoiding known triggers where possible.

 <https://headacheaustralia.org.au/migraine/migraine-a-common-and-distressing-disorder/>



Do you have a lower back injury that keeps on recurring? Receive half price for the first assessment and treatment if you book now for November and December.

We will find the cause and all the contributing factors why this injury is occurring & show you how to improve your movement, strength and performance.

We will treat you with our hands-on techniques and provide a specific and individualised recovery and exercise program.

Call our Physiotherapists at Gateway Medical Centre now to get your first treatment half price.

T: 9998 3400 and mention the code word "Performance".

Mark Brakell
Advance Physiotherapy & Sports Injury Centre

If you suffer from any of the following symptoms you may require a thorough bio-mechanical assessment by our consultant Podiatrist to determine a solution to treat the cause and eliminate the symptoms.

- Muscle pain, tension or spasm?
- Pain and grinding in the knee? (Patello-Femoral Tracking Syndrome)
- Low back or sacroiliac pain? (Sciatica)
- Leg length inequality?
- Ball of the foot pain? (Metatarsalgia)
- Bunions? (Hallux valgus)
- Foot arch pain? (Plantar fasciitis / heel spur)
- Shin splints / calf pain? Posterior Tibial Tendon Disorder
- Hypermobility causing joints and ankle pain?

Symptoms that...

- Increase with running, walking or standing?
- Do not responding to rest / stretching?
- That improve with care but return with activity?

Muhammad Maarj (Mo)
BPod. MAPoda.

Complete Hearing Care

Can help people improve the quality of their lives in Mona Vale and surrounding areas. We provide excellent service to our patients by diagnosing your hearing problem providing you with the best solution for your lifestyle. Conveniently located within Gateway Medical Centre, Complete Hearing Care are here to assist with all your hearing concerns. Please contact us on:

9999 6314. Complete Hearing Care are proud to be one of the very few selected Authorised Lyric Providers in NSW to offer Lyric- the world's first 100% invisible extended wear hearing device. Visit www.phonak.com/lyric for more information.

Neeti Chadha Audiologist



CHRISTMAS CAKE

Ingredients

- 3 cups (approx. 500 grams) sultanas
- 1 1/2 cups (approx. 250 – 270 grams) raisins
- 1 cup (approx. 150 grams) currants
- 1 cup (approx. 150 grams) pitted dates, roughly chopped
- 100g red glazed cherries, quartered
- 1/2 cup (approx. 75grams) craisins
- 1/2 cup (approx. 75grams) dried pineapple, roughly chopped
- 2 teaspoons finely grated orange rind
- 1/4 cup (approx. 50 grams) mixed peel 185ml
- 3/4 cup brandy
- 4 eggs (75grams eggs)
- 250g butter, at room temperature
- 200g of brown sugar
- 2 cups plain flour
- 2 teaspoons of mixed spice
- Red Glazed Cherries and Blanched almonds to decorate

Method

1. Combine sultanas, raisins, currants, dates, cherries, craisins, pineapple, mixed peel, brandy and orange rind in a large bowl.

Cover with plastic wrap and set aside, stirring occasionally, for a minimum of 2 days to macerate. The longer this is left the more the flavours will develop.

2. Preheat oven to 150°C. Brush a round 22cm (base measurement) cake pan with melted butter to lightly grease and line the base and side with 3 layers of non-stick baking paper.

3. Beat butter and sugar in a bowl until pale and creamy (an electric beater is preferred). Add eggs, 1 at a time, beating well between each addition until just combined. Add butter mixture to fruit mixture and stir to combine. Add mixed spice and stir until well combined. Spoon into prepared pan and smooth the surface. Lightly tap pan on benchtop to release any air bubbles. Arrange almonds and cherries on top of the cake.

4. Bake in oven, covered with foil, for 2 hours 40 minutes to 3 hours or until a skewer inserted into centre comes out clean. Drizzle hot cake with extra brandy. Set aside to cool before turning out.



This practice wishes you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!