



FEBRUARY - MARCH 2024 EDITION

FREE TO TAKE HOME!



Healthy food choices



Melanomas



Atrial Fibrillation



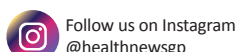
Cataracts

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



Follow us on Instagram
@healthnewsngp

BULK BILLING MEDICAL CENTRE

Please do not contact the practice via email in an emergency or to obtain any medical / clinical advice

DOCTORS & THEIR INTERESTS

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

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, SCHP
Paediatrics

Dr Azadeh Sahebian
MD FRACGP

ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Neeti Chadha Audiologist
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.

▶ Please see the Rear Cover for more practice information.





Healthy food choices for school-aged children

One in four Australian children are overweight or obese. There are two main drivers of this. Firstly, is the tendency for children to snack on high-calorie foods and drinks. Second is the replacement of physical activity with time on the computer or other electronic devices. We can't turn back time, but it is not all bad news. There is much you can do as a parent or guardian to help a child who is **battling with weight issues**.

Back to school means thinking about lunchboxes. It is fine to have a sweet treat in the lunchbox some days, but there are many healthy snack options too. Sticks of carrot or celery can be a snack. Fruit in season is a great snack. Even with snack bars, you can select those with natural ingredients, whole grains and less sugar by reading the labels. Read the labels on cracker biscuits, too. Some are high in fats and sugar, whilst others (like rice crackers) are not. A mix of seeds, nuts (watch for allergies), and dried fruit is another simple snack, as are cheese sticks or popcorn. Substitute sweet drinks with water. Eliminating liquid calories can cut down calorie intake without leaving a child hungry. Have soft drinks only on special occasions or no more than once a week. Rather than fruit juice, give your child a piece of fruit and a glass of water. This provides them with more fibre and fewer calories.



Avoid Listeria in pregnancy

Listeria is an infection caused by a common bacterium. It occurs in the soil and water. Thus, plants and marine life can be infected with the bacteria, as well as animals that eat plants. There are around 65 cases in Australia each year, and 10% of these are in pregnant women who are at greatest risk in the third trimester.

Listeriosis increases the risk of stillbirth, low birth weight and premature labour. Symptoms can be mild or severe, with fever, headaches, vomiting, and diarrhoea.

Whilst uncommon, it is important to take steps to avoid potential exposure to Listeria. Fortunately, this is not difficult and involves not eating "high-risk" foods whilst pregnant. Foods to avoid are processed deli poultry meats (e.g. sliced chicken), soft cheeses (brie camembert), raw seafood (e.g. oysters) pre-made sushi, unpasteurised juices and soft serve ice creams.

You can continue to enjoy plenty of foods whilst pregnant, including hard cheeses, smoked seafood, hard frozen ice cream or gelato, freshly prepared sushi, pasteurised juices and hot deli meats (cooked at over 75°C).

Maintaining a balanced diet is important when pregnant, and you may need certain supplements. Talk to your GP about any concerns you have and also about both diet and the need (if any) for supplements.

Avoiding Listeria is not difficult, and there is no need to stress over every mouthful of food you eat.



More info »



Melanomas

Australia continues to have the highest rates of melanoma in the world. That does not mean every spot on the skin is cancerous or potentially cancerous, though. Melanomas are the least common form of skin cancer but the most life-threatening. The Melanoma Institute estimated 15,229 cases in 2019 and some 1726 deaths.

There are specific characteristics which point to a spot on the skin being a melanoma, but none are absolute. An asymmetrical lesion with an uneven border and multiple colours would be a textbook melanoma. Another pointer changes over a short period, like a few weeks.

On the flip side, a spot of any colour that has been present for five years without changing at all will be relatively harmless.

With digital technology, it is possible for moles to be photographed and comparisons made after a few months to see if there is a change. When there

is enough suspicion, the mole may be biopsied and analysed in the lab for an exact diagnosis. Once again, only some spots will need this.

An annual skin check with your doctor is a good idea, as well as checking for any new or changing spots of concern. New does not always equal cancer though, which is a good thing.

The best way to avoid getting skin cancer is to take care in the sun. The message of slip, slop, slap is not new but remains valid. Over summer, there is no reason not to enjoy an outdoor lifestyle, but remember to look after your skin.



Atrial Fibrillation

Our hearts beat over 100,000 times per day, and most do this in a regular fashion. The pacemaker sends an electric signal for the heart muscles to contract, pumping blood out to the body.

Arrhythmias are conditions where the heart beats irregularly. In atrial fibrillation (AF), the top two heart chambers can beat very fast, and the muscles contract in an uncoordinated way. This distorts the electrical message to the rest of the heart. In turn, the contractions of the heart become less efficient.

Typical symptoms include palpitations, shortness of breath, fluttering of the heart, dizziness and sometimes fainting. The heart beats in a fast and irregular pattern. Around 2% of people overall and 10% of those over 75 may be affected. Risk factors include high blood pressure, established heart disease, trauma to the chest and use of certain drugs, including caffeine and alcohol.

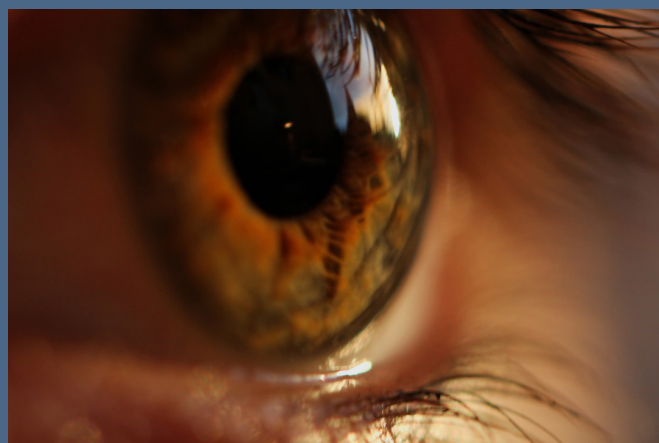
Your doctor will take a history and perform a physical examination. Diagnosis can be made with plain ECG testing, but you may be referred for a Holter monitor (a 24-hour ECG) as AF can be intermittent.

Treatment may include medication to slow the heart rate and make the heart beat regularly. You may be prescribed blood thinners too as AF increases the risk of stroke. Cardioversion (electric shock therapy) can jolt the heart out of AF and back to normal. In severe cases, surgery (ablation) is an option.

Lifestyle changes like quitting smoking, reducing alcohol and caffeine, attaining a healthy weight and regular exercise all help to prevent and manage AF.



More info



Cataracts

This is the leading cause of blindness and vision loss worldwide. Cataracts occur when the lens of the eye goes cloudy or opaque. Around 10% of Australians have cataracts, increasing from 4% of 50-59-year-olds to over 60% of 90-year-olds.

Advancing age is the most typical reason, but trauma, radiation exposure, some drugs (like steroids), and metabolic conditions (like diabetes) can also lead to cataracts. Women are more affected than men.

Cataracts are classified by their level of maturity (progression), cause, or appearance. The symptom is a reduction in visual acuity (ability). The onset is gradual, and progression is slow but constant in most instances. If only one eye is affected, it may not be noticed for quite a while as the other eye "compensates".

A cataract is easily diagnosed on examination, and no tests are needed. When looking in the eye with an ophthalmoscope, your doctor will be able to see a cataract. It is recommended that people over 40 have a regular eye check with an ophthalmologist. Your GP can refer you.

Treatment for cataracts is surgical removal and insertion of an intra-ocular lens- done when symptoms warrant it and prescription glasses are no longer sufficient. It may be many years from diagnosis to the time of surgery.

The procedure is generally done under local anaesthetic, and recovery is quick. You will need the eye padded for a short period of time and will be prescribed drops to use post-operatively.

INFORMED PATIENT DECISIONS

Our practice gives patients sufficient information about the purpose importance benefits, risks and possible costs associated with proposed investigations, referrals or treatments, to enable patients to make informed decisions about their health.

COST OF PRIVATE CONSULT

Standard Consult - \$80.00
Medicare Rebate - \$41.20
Long Consult - \$115.00
Medicare Rebate - \$79.77
Extended Consult - \$145.00
Medicare Rebate - \$117.40

AFTER HOURS PRIVATE CONSULT

Standard Consult - \$95.00
Medicare Rebate - \$53.65
Long Consult - \$125.00
Medicare Rebate - \$92.00

These consultations are claimable from Medicare

HOME VISITS

Home visits available for patients of the practice weekdays between 8am and 4pm please contact reception for further information.

Communication Policy

Our practice's primary reason for communicating electronically to patients is to issue appointment reminders and we verify the correct contact details of the patient at the time of the appointment being made.

Currently our practice does NOT allow patients an opportunity to obtain advice or information related to their care by electronic means. All email communication is only via the practice manager. Our practice will not initiate electronic communication (other than SMS appointment reminders) with patients. Any electronic communication received from patients to the practice manager, is also used as a method to verify the contact details we have recorded on file are correct and up-to-date.

Health News

APPOINTMENTS AND WALK INS

The practice policy is that although appointments are encouraged, no appointment is necessary and patients are seen on the order of arrival unless urgent. Appointment length will vary and all patients are encouraged to indicate when booking an appointment, if an extended appointment is required.

RECALLS

This practice provides recalls and reminders for immunisation, pathology etc. We also offer for you to be enrolled in recall and research programs, as well as National, State or Territory reminder systems/registers.

If you do not wish to participate please inform your doctor.

INTERPRETER SERVICES

The Practice encourages patients to inform reception staff if an interpreter is required. Preferably 24 hours before a booked appointment. Also for hearing and speech impaired patients.

Please inform reception when making an appointment if you require an interpreter.

REFERRALS

All referrals to specialists when transmitted electronically are forwarded in a secure and encrypted format.

Patients are also handed a copy of their referral. Our referral documents to other healthcare providers contain sufficient information to facilitate optimal patient care.



MUSELI BARS

Natural nut butters (peanut butter or almond butter) are best for this, and they are different to commercial spreads because they have no added sugar, salt, preservatives, etc. It's 100% nuts, which means better flavour and a runnier consistency. Be sure to mix well to combine before using and even microwave slightly to obtain the right consistency, add honey or maple syrup for natural sweetness.

INGREDIENTS

- Almonds – whole, roasted, unsalted and roughly chopped.
- Sultanas, raisins, cranberries or any other dried fruit of choice.
- Pepitas (they give it some colour and bite).
- Sesame seeds (optional).
- Desiccated coconut (unsweetened). Flakes will also work, but because they are larger, they won't disperse as well throughout and should be roughly chopped.

- Cinnamon – just a pinch makes all the difference.
- Salt – Just a pinch.

DIRECTIONS

1. Put the peanut butter and honey in a saucepan over low heat and mix to combine - stirring almost constantly, until thickened. Scrape the base of the saucepan, getting in around the edges.
2. Immediately pour the mixture across the surface of the oats. Use the wooden spoon to mix to combine until you can no longer see dry oats (If it gets too hard to stir, microwave for 20 seconds).
3. Place a sheet of paper over a square pan). Scrape the mixture in, then press it into the pan using a combination of a wooden spatula to spread it out, then use your hands to press it in.
4. Press firmly, but keep some air in the mixture to avoid going too chewy.
5. Refrigerate for 2 -3 hours to set, then cut into bars depending on your size preference.

WORD SEARCH

A	I	R	E	T	S	I	L	R	L	R	G	B	S
T	A	E	T	A	M	U	A	R	T	D	T	S	A
A	T	D	D	E	N	O	R	T	E	R	N	F	O
H	R	O	O	A	C	I	L	U	A	E	O	I	C
L	I	C	O	T	I	A	H	E	S	T	I	A	A
A	A	T	L	D	T	L	H	U	C	L	S	M	T
B	L	O	B	I	M	A	A	N	A	O	E	O	A
O	L	R	G	I	N	C	N	I	L	H	L	N	R
U	A	I	N	T	O	R	E	P	O	R	T	A	A
R	D	T	A	D	I	C	K	L	R	T	I	L	C
F	O	O	D	K	S	T	C	A	I	H	E	E	T
U	R	A	H	L	I	E	I	N	E	A	L	M	S
L	T	D	I	A	V	T	H	T	Y	E	A	T	R
O	B	C	L	O	O	H	C	S	E	I	N	A	E

LISTERIA
 VISION
 DIGITAL
 CATARACT
 CHICKEN
 PLANTS
 CAUSE
 EYE
 FOOD
 TRAUMA
 DOCTOR
 BLOOD
 HOLTER
 LESION
 HEART
 MELANOMA
 ATRIAL
 SCHOOL
 LABOUR
 CALORIE

Gateway Medical Centre

REMEDIAL MASSAGE

Ying (Leon) Li is a graduate of the University of Sydney, with a deep dedication to his profession in the realm of musculoskeletal conditions, acute and chronic sports injuries, spinal disorders, and post-operative rehabilitation.

Leon's unwavering passion for his work is evident in his approach. He firmly believes that providing exceptional care requires a combination of transparent and deliberate clinical decision-making, firmly rooted in evidence-based practices, and a genuine respect for patient preferences. Drawing on a wealth of experience and his astute analytical mindset, he consistently delivers outstanding results. What truly sets Leon apart is his commitment to providing individualised care that prioritises each patient's unique needs and goals. His diverse treatment repertoire includes the art of 'hands-on' manual therapy, precise active release techniques, targeted trigger point therapy, skillful dry needling, and customised exercise plans. In addition to his expertise in physiotherapy, Leon is a seasoned remedial massage practitioner and a registered Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) practitioner, specialising in herbal medicine and acupuncture. With Leon, you can trust that you're in the hands of a seasoned, passionate, and caring provider.

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