Privacy is something everyone is concerned about when they come to a group class. Everyone who participates in the group wants what is said in the group to be treated with respect and complete discretion. Along with Kaiser Permanente’s commitment to foster a respect for all participants, each participant individually has a responsibility to respect and protect each other’s privacy.

Please share useful general information outside of the group, but what you hear and learn about individual group members should stay here.

Regional Health Education, Health Promotion and Women’s Health Department
Updated: May 27, 2010
Important Disclaimer

- The information provided in this presentation is not a substitute for the advice of your personal physician or other qualified health care professional.

- Always seek the advice of your physician or other qualified health care professional with any questions you may have regarding medical symptoms or a medical condition.

- Never disregard professional medical advice or delay in seeking it based on information contained in this presentation.
About Your Instructor

- Cheryl Mirabella
- Health Educator
# Agenda Slide

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Feeling Stressed, Anyone??
What Are Your Triggers?

- Personal Stress
- Family Stress
- Friends
- Job Stress

Can you think of any other triggers that may trigger emotional eating for you?
Why We Do What We Do

- Our ‘habits’ are part of who we are.
- They allow us to function and survive in the world.
- Our brain wiring triggers our reactions before we are able to cognitively process what is happening.
The Autonomic Nervous System

The parasympathetic nervous system, which regulates day-to-day internal processes and behavior, is shown on the left. The sympathetic nervous system, which regulates internal processes and behavior in stressful situations, is shown on the right. Note that, on their way to and from the spinal cord, the nerve fibers of the sympathetic nervous system innervate, or make connections with ganglia, specialized clusters of neuron chains.

- **Parasympathetic**
  - Constricts pupil
  - Inhibits tear glands
  - Increases saliva
  - Slows heart
  - Constricts bronchi
  - Increases digestive functions of stomach
  - Increases digestive functions of intestine
  - Contracts bladder

- **Sympathetic**
  - Stimulates tear glands
  - Dilates pupil
  - Inhibits salivation, increases sweating
  - Accelerates heart
  - Dilates bronchi
  - Decreases digestive functions of stomach
  - Secretes adrenalin
  - Decreases digestive functions of intestine
  - Inhibits bladder contraction
The Hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) Axis

- The HPA axis is a feedback loop by which signals from the brain trigger the release of hormones needed to respond to stress. Because of its function, the HPA axis is also called the “stress circuit”.

![Diagram of the HPA axis showing the hypothalamus releasing factor, which stimulates the anterior pituitary to release ACTH, which in turn stimulates the adrenal cortex to release cortisol.](image-url)
Cortisol & Circadian Rhythms

Alertness

Drowsiness

Normal Fluctuations In Cortisol Level

Restorative Sleep
Cortisol & Circadian Rhythms

Alertness

Drowsiness

Lack of restorative sleep leads to FATIGUE
= seeking energy boosters, including carbs, sugar, caffeine.
Elevated Cortisol Leads to...

- First release of sugar from fat cells
- To speed up short term brain function
- Causes long-term raised sugar levels related to type 2 diabetes
- And storage of fat in abdominal area
The Stress Reaction
“Fight or Flight”: BP and Pulse rate, HPA axis, and acute arousal

Substance dependence: alcohol, drugs, cigarettes, caffeine, food

Overworking, overeating, hyperactivity or avoidance: Self destructive behaviors

Chronic Hyper-arousal, HBP, sleep disorders, chronic headaches and backaches, anxiety, increased sickness, fatigue

BREAKDOWN: Exhaustion, loss of enthusiasm & drive, depression, susceptibility to genetic predispositions

INTERNALIZATION & INHIBITION OF THE STRESS REACTION

STRESS RESPONSE
- HPA and Arousal triggering
- Mindfulness: awareness of body, muscle tension, breathing, thoughts, and feelings
- Awareness of context
- Cognitive Strategies
- Quicker Recovery of Mental and Physical balance

You
Perception Appraisal & What Happens Next

External Stress Event

Internal Stress Event
Stressful Emotions

- Anger
- Bored
- Lonely
- Deprived
- Frustrated
- Anxious

The list goes on….What are your feelings?
Positive Emotions

- Love
- Appreciation
- Gratitude
- Kindness
- Compassion
- Forgiveness
- For Yourself or Others
Eating Patterns that Develop

- Eat when your not hungry?
- Skip meals and binge on snacks?
- Eat large meals and stuff yourself?
- Sneak food when others aren’t around?
- Try and ‘fail’ multiple diets?
- Hide food, your ‘stash’ of goodies?
Comfort Foods

- What is your favorite comfort food?
- What feelings come from eating it?
- How about right before?
- Or during?
- Or after eating it?
What is the Alternative

- Understand what your triggers & stressors are
- Develop your stress management skills
- Begin to apply this when you notice the stressors are triggering desire to eat
- This is the Stress Response!!
Wellness Coaching by Phone for Members

- Topics
  - Healthy weight
  - Managing stress
  - Physical activity
  - Eating healthy
  - Quitting tobacco

Telephone appointments
1-866-862-4295
Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Resources

- http://www.kp.org/listen
  - You will find guided imagery exercise for weight loss, as well as other stress management stills.

- http://www.kp.org/mindbody
  - Additional information about stress management and the Mind Body Connection & Wellness

  - National Institute of Health
Thank You

Who has the first question?