

The Low FODMAP Diet (FODMAP=Fermentable Oligo-Di-Monosaccharides and Polyols)

FODMAPs are carbohydrates (sugars) that are found in foods. Not all carbohydrates are considered FODMAPs.

The FODMAPs in the diet are:

- Fructose (fruits, honey, high fructose corn syrup (HFCS), etc)
- Lactose (dairy)
- Fructans (wheat, onion, garlic, etc)(fructans are also known as inulin)
- Galactans (beans, lentils, legumes such as soy, etc)
- Polyols (sweeteners containing sorbitol, mannitol, xylitol, maltitol, stone fruits such as avocado, apricots, cherries, nectarines, peaches, plums, etc)

FODMAPs are osmotic (means they pull water into the intestinal tract), may not be digested or absorbed well and could be fermented upon by bacteria in the intestinal tract when eaten in excess.

Symptoms of gas, bloating, cramping and/or diarrhea may occur in those who could be sensitive to the effects of FODMAPs. A low FODMAP diet may help reduce symptoms, which will limit foods high in fructose, lactose, fructans, galactans and polyols.

The low FODMAP diet is often used in those with irritable bowel syndrome (IBS). The diet also has potential use in those with similar symptoms arising from other digestive disorders such as inflammatory bowel disease.

This diet will also limit fiber as some high fiber foods have also high amounts of FODMAPs. (Fiber is a component of complex carbohydrates that the body cannot digest, found in plant based foods such as beans, fruits, vegetables, whole grains, etc)

Low FODMAP Food Choices

Food Group	Foods to Eat	Foods to Limit
Meats, Poultry Fish, Eggs	beef, chicken, canned tuna, eggs, egg whites, fish, lamb, pork, shellfish, turkey, cold cuts	foods made with high FODMAP fruit sauces or with HFCS
Dairy	lactose free dairy, small amounts of: cream cheese, half and half, hard cheeses (cheddar, colby, parmesan, swiss), mozzarella, sherbet	buttermilk, chocolate, cottage cheese, ice cream, creamy/cheesy sauces, milk (from cow, sheep or goat), sweetened condensed milk, evaporated milk, soft cheeses (brie, ricotta), sour cream, whipped cream, yogurt
Meat, Non-Dairy Alternatives	almond milk, rice milk, rice milk ice cream, nuts, nut butters, seeds	coconut milk, coconut cream, beans, black eyed peas, hummus, lentils, pistachios, soy products
Grains	<u>wheat free grains/wheat free flours (gluten free grains are wheat free):</u> bagels, breads, hot/cold cereals (corn flakes, cheerios, cream of rice, grits, oats, etc), crackers, noodles, pastas, quinoa, pancakes, pretzels, rice, tapioca, tortillas, waffles	chicory root, inulin, grains with HFCS or made from wheat (<i>terms for wheat: einkorn, emmer, kamut, spelt</i>), wheat flours (<i>terms for wheat flour: bromated, durum, enriched, farina, graham, semolina, white flours</i>), flour tortillas, rye
Fruits	bananas, berries, cantaloupe, grapes, grapefruit, honeydew, kiwi, kumquat, lemon, lime, mandarin, orange, passion fruit, pineapple, rhubarb, tangerine	avocado, apples, applesauce, apricots, dates, canned fruit, cherries, dried fruits, figs, guava, lychee, mango, nectarines, pears, papaya, peaches, plums, prunes, persimmon, watermelon
Vegetables	bamboo shoots, bell peppers, bok choy, cucumbers, carrots, celery, corn, eggplant, lettuce, leafy greens pumpkin, potatoes, squash, yams, (butternut, winter), tomatoes, zucchini	artichokes, asparagus, beets, leeks, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, fennel, green beans, mushrooms, okra, snow peas, summer squash
Desserts	any made with allowed foods	any with HFCS or made with foods to limit
Beverages	low FODMAP fruit/vegetable juices (limit to ½ cup at a time), coffee, tea	any with HFCS, high FODMAP fruit/vegetable juices, fortified wines (sherry, port)
Seasonings, Condiments	most spices and herbs, homemade broth, butter, chives, flaxseed, garlic flavored oil, garlic powder, olives, margarine, mayonnaise, onion powder, olive oil, pepper, salt, sugar, maple syrup without HFCS, mustard, low FODMAP salad dressings, soy sauce, marinara sauce (small amounts), vinegar, balsamic vinegar	HFCS, agave, chutneys, coconut, garlic, honey, jams, jellies, molasses, onions, pickle, relish, high FODMAP fruit/vegetable sauces, salad dressings made with high FODMAPs, artificial sweeteners: sorbitol, mannitol, isomalt, xylitol (cough drops, gums, mints)

Tips for a low FODMAP diet:

- Follow the diet for 6 weeks. After this, add high FODMAP foods one at a time back into the diet in small amounts to identify foods that could be "triggers" to your symptoms. Limit foods that trigger your symptoms.
- Read food labels. Avoid foods made with high FODMAPs such as high FODMAP fruits, HFCS, honey, inulin, wheat, soy, etc. However, a food could be an overall low FODMAP food if a high FODMAP food listed as the last ingredient.
- Buy gluten free grains as they are wheat free. However, you do not need to follow a 100% gluten free diet as the focus is on FODMAPs, not gluten. Look for gluten free grains made with low FODMAPs, such as potato, quinoa, rice or corn. Avoid gluten free grains made with high FODMAPs.
- Limit serving sizes for low FODMAP fruits/vegetables and high fiber/low FODMAP foods such as quinoa to a *½ cup per meal* (½ cup=size of a tennis ball) if you have symptoms after eating these foods. The symptoms could be related to eating large amounts of low FODMAPs or fiber all at once.

Low FODMAP Meals and Snack Ideas

1. gluten free waffle with walnuts, blueberries, maple syrup without HFCS
2. eggs scrambled with spinach, bell peppers and cheddar cheese
3. oatmeal topped with sliced banana, almonds and brown sugar
4. fruit smoothie blended with lactose free vanilla yogurt and strawberries
5. rice pasta with chicken, tomatoes, spinach topped with pesto sauce
6. chicken salad mixed with chicken, lettuce, bell peppers, cucumbers, tomatoes, balsamic vinegar salad dressing
7. turkey wrap with gluten free tortilla, sliced turkey, lettuce, tomato, slice of cheddar cheese slice, mayonnaise, mustard
8. ham and swiss cheese sandwich on gluten free bread, with mayonnaise, mustard
9. quesadilla with corn or gluten free tortilla and cheddar cheese
10. beef and vegetable stew (made with homemade broth, beef, allowed vegetables)

Resources:

"Evidence Based Dietary Management of Functional Gastrointestinal Symptoms: The FODMAP Approach" Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology February 2010

"Clinical Ramifications of Malabsorption of Fructose and Other Short Chain Carbohydrates" Nutrition Issues in Gastroenterology (in Journal of Practical Gastroenterology) August 2007