

Achieve

A Newsletter
for AvMed
Members

▶ YOUR HEALTHIEST LIFE WITH HEART FAILURE

Sneaky causes of fluid retention

You're watching your salt and taking your meds, so why are you still swelling? Here's what else might be at play.

Swellings in the feet, legs, or abdomen can be a sign of fluid retention, a common symptom of heart failure. Even if you're following your care plan, there may be other things contributing to the problem.

Understanding what can trigger swelling makes it easier to take action before symptoms worsen. Hidden triggers may include:

- **“Healthy” convenience foods** like canned soups, frozen meals, or deli meat — often high in sodium
- **Weather changes**, especially hot, humid days

- **Over-the-counter meds**, especially NSAIDs like ibuprofen
- **Inconsistent medication use** or skipped doses

Luckily, there are steps you can take to stay ahead of fluid retention and protect your health. Managing these factors at home can help you feel more comfortable and avoid serious complications. Try these tips:

- **Read labels carefully** and look for low-sodium options

- **Ask your doctor** about safer pain relief options
- **Weigh yourself daily**, as small changes can be an early warning sign
- **Write down your symptoms** so you can track patterns and share with your care team

If you notice swelling that's new or worsening, check in with your Provider. A few simple changes may help you feel better and avoid more serious complications.





Tips for a better night's sleep

Quality sleep helps your body repair itself, and that includes your heart and blood vessels.

According to the American Heart Association, getting seven to nine hours of quality sleep each night is one of the keys to good heart health.

But good sleep isn't always easy to come by. In fact, one in three adults don't get enough, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

And if you have congestive heart failure, poor sleep can raise your risk of complications.

Here's how sleep supports your heart:

- **Gives your heart and blood vessels time to repair**
- **Regulates blood pressure**
- **Supports a healthy weight**, which can reduce heart strain

- **Lowers inflammation**, which plays a role in heart disease.

Small changes can make a big difference in how well you sleep and how you feel the next day.

Try these tips for better rest:

- **Keep a regular sleep schedule**, even on weekends
- **Limit screen time** an hour before bed to protect natural melatonin levels
- **Make your bedroom cool** (60–67°F), dark, and quiet
- **Avoid caffeine after 3 p.m.**
- **Skip heavy meals late at night**
- **Limit alcohol**, which can interfere with deep sleep
- **Try calming techniques** like deep breathing or meditation before bed

If you're struggling with sleep, talk to your doctor. They can help you find solutions that work for you and support your overall treatment plan.



To reach a Case Manager

Simply call 1-833-609-0735 or email DM@AvMed.org or scan the QR code provided.



Healthy Eating Made Simple

THE FIBER FIX:

Why most people don't get enough and how to sneak more in

Fiber helps support heart, gut, and blood sugar health. These easy tips can help you close the gap without overhauling your whole diet.



Most people think of fiber as just a digestion aid, but it does much more behind the scenes to keep your body running smoothly. Fiber supports heart health, stabilizes blood sugar, and promotes a healthy gut by:

- **Lowering LDL (“bad”) cholesterol.**
- **Slowing digestion,** helping prevent blood sugar spikes.
- **Supporting regular bowel movements** and a healthy microbiome.

Still, most adults get less than half the recommended amount each day. According to Mayo Clinic,

- **Women need at least 21 to 25 grams per day**
- **Men need at least 30 to 38 grams per day**

Try these easy tips to sneak more fiber into your diet:

- **Add a veggie:** Toss spinach into scrambled eggs or top tacos with shredded cabbage.

- **Swap your carbs:** Choose whole-grain bread or brown rice over white versions.
- **Snack smart:** Try nuts, seeds, popcorn, or fruit with skin (like apples or pears).
- **Start slow and hydrate:** Increasing fiber too quickly can cause bloating — go gradual and drink plenty of water.

Even small changes can go a long way toward supporting your overall well-being.

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