

# THE PORTFOLIO DIET

An evidence-based eating plan for lower cholesterol

## WHAT IS THE PORTFOLIO DIET?

The portfolio diet is a way of eating that evidence has shown can help lower cholesterol and your risk of heart disease. Instead of focusing on what you can't eat, the Portfolio diet is about what you can add to your menu!

The diet includes a "portfolio" of plant foods that you can choose from.

Research shows that medications and diet both work to lower your cholesterol. Medications can be more effective and easier, but some people don't want to take medications, cannot tolerate the side effects, or want to combine a nutritious diet with medications.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

The Portfolio diet is exactly as it sounds. It takes a few dietary patterns that have been shown to lower cholesterol and puts them together. To lower your cholesterol, you can "invest" in any one pattern, or some of them, or all of them.



## WHAT DOES THE PORTFOLIO DIET LOOK LIKE?

Expected LDL-Cholesterol lowering:

<p><b>1 NUTS 45g DAILY</b></p> <p>All nuts are good for your heart and cholesterol and contrary to concerns do not contribute to weight gain. Add nuts as a snack between meals, adding to salads, cereals, or yogurt. Trying nut butter on your toast is an option. 45g is about a handful of nuts. If allergic to peanuts or tree nuts, try seeds.</p>		<p>• 5 - 10%</p>
<p><b>2 PLANT PROTEIN 50g DAILY</b></p> <p>This is the most challenging component of the Portfolio diet. Start by trying to get 25g daily. Consider replacing milk with soy milk, try tofu, soy nuts and beans.</p>		<p>• 5 - 10%</p>
<p><b>3 VISCIOUS (STICKY) FIBRE 20g DAILY</b></p> <p>Aim to eat 2 servings of oatmeal, beans, lentils, and chickpeas a day. Replace bread with rye or pumpernickel or oatcakes. Eat at least 5 servings of fruit and vegetables every day. Aim to eat 2 servings per day of oatmeal, barley, or cereals enriched with psyllium or oat bran. Replace white bread with whole grain oat breads. Put oat bran or psyllium into smoothies. Eat at least 5 servings per day of vegetables (eggplant, okra) and fruit (apples, oranges, berries) high in viscous fibre.</p>		<p>• 5 - 10%</p>
<p><b>4 PLANT STEROLS 2g DAILY</b></p> <p>These occur naturally (soybean, corn, squash, etc.) but to get this amount of sterol you will require fortified foods such as spreads, juices, yogurt, milk and even supplements as part of a meal.</p>		<p>• 5 - 10%</p>
<p><b>TOTAL: • ~30%</b></p>		<p>Statins, the most effective class of cholesterol-lowering medications, reduce cholesterol by 20-60%</p>

IT'S **NOT** ABOUT ONE BIG CHANGE. IT'S **NOT** ALL OR NOTHING. JUST START BY INTRODUCING ONE COMPONENT TO YOUR DIET AND BUILD FROM THERE.



THIS PORTFOLIO DIET IS FOR REAL PEOPLE IN THE REAL WORLD

— DR. DAVID JENKINS, CREATOR OF THE PORTFOLIO DIET

David JA Jenkins MD, PhD, DSc, Cyril WC Kendall PhD, Lilisha Burris MHS, RD, John L Sievenpiper MD, PhD, FRCPC, Michael F. Evans MD, CCFP, Emily Nicholas Angl BSc