WHAT TRIGGERS WILL MAKE MY SYMPTOMS WORSE OR BRING ON A VERTIGO ATTACK?

Ménière’s disease (MD) triggers are different from patient to patient. It is possible that you have one trigger, or you may have many. You may want to keep a food and activity diary. This can help you find what your triggers are.

IF I KNOW THAT SODIUM (SALT) IS A TRIGGER FOR ME, HOW MUCH CAN I CONSUME DAILY?

While there is no sodium (salt) recommendation specifically for patients with MD, the American Heart Association recommends an “ideal” limitation of 1500 mg and having no more than 2300 mg.†

I HAVE A HIGH STRESS JOB/LIFE AND IT MAKES MY SYMPTOMS WORSE. HOW CAN I AVOID STRESS?

Stress can play a role in making MD symptoms worse. It is hard to live a stress-free life; however, there are many things you can do to manage stress. A few things you can do are:

- get adequate sleep and exercise
- meditate
- join support groups
- avoid natural depressants like alcohol and drugs

IS THERE A SPECIAL DIET I SHOULD FOLLOW TO AVOID AN ATTACK?

Diet may not affect everyone the same way. However, having too much sodium (salt) in your diet can increase fluid in the inner ear. Reading food labels can help you keep track and avoid having too much sodium. Foods that are naturally low in sodium include:

- fresh fruits and vegetables
- whole food (not processed)
- fresh beef, poultry, and fish

Also, having too much caffeine has been known in some people to trigger an attack. However, caffeine does not affect everyone.


ABOUT THE AAO-HNS/F

The American Academy of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS) represents approximately 12,000 specialists worldwide who treat the ear, nose, throat, and related structures of the head and neck. The AAO-HNS Foundation works to advance the art, science, and ethical practice of otolaryngology–head and neck surgery through education, research, and lifelong learning.

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