



# Red Meat

and the seven ages of man

Improving  
diet quality  
from weaning  
to old age

# The crucial role of red meat in plugging the nutrition gap

**This Body Map information pack has been developed by the Meat Advisory Panel to illustrate how lean red meat can help overcome nutrition gaps in the diet at particular stages in life.**

It highlights the specific demands for healthy growth, development and general well-being at different life stages. Many people in the UK have inadequate intakes of essential vitamins and minerals from their diet and this has potential health consequences.

Meat has been an important part of the diet since the dawn of mankind but, in recent years, there has been some debate about whether too much red meat can raise the risk of health problems.

However, studies would seem to indicate that a balanced approach rather than avoidance is the best option. Globally, it is now well recognised that lean red meat can provide a wide variety of key nutrients in a form that is readily absorbed by the body.

When eaten as part of a healthy balanced diet, lean red meat is an important source of protein and a number of key essential nutrients. Lean red meat can, therefore, help improve the nutritional quality of the diet from weaning through to old age.

\* The Body Maps included in this information pack focus on the results of studies showing tendencies that:

- Infants and pre-school children** Diets in this age group are low in vitamin A, vitamin D, iron, zinc
- Pre-pubescent children** Diets were found to be low in vitamin A, magnesium, iron and zinc. Boys tended to have higher intakes of iron and thiamin than girls
- Teenagers (13 to 18 years)** Diets are low in many key nutrients - including vitamin A, vitamin D, iron, magnesium, zinc, selenium and potassium
- Adults of reproductive age (19-50 years)** Diets, particularly for females, fall short in magnesium and iron, as well as zinc, selenium and potassium
- Pregnancy and lactation** Women on average fail to get enough calcium, magnesium, iron, iodine, selenium and potassium and vitamin D
- Middle-age and older age (50 years and above)** While this group has better quality diets, there are still shortfalls in intakes of magnesium, zinc and potassium
- Older age (75 years and beyond)** Data shows that in adults aged over 85, intakes of magnesium, zinc and potassium are below the recommended nutrient intake

Nutrient	Beef	Veal	Pork	Lamb	Calf Liver
Vitamin A	-	-	-	-	Rich Source
Vitamin B1	-	-	Rich source	-	Rich Source
Vitamin B3	Rich source				
Vitamin B6	Rich source	Rich source	Rich source		Rich source
Vitamin B12	Rich source				
Vitamin D	Source	Source	-	-	-
Iron	Source	-	-	-	Rich source
Zinc	Rich source	Source	Source	Source	Rich source
Selenium	Rich source	-	-	Source	-
Potassium	Source	Source	Source	Source	Source

Nutrients found in lean red meat classified as a 'source' or 'rich source' according to EU nutrition and health claims regulations

\*For more information, please visit [www.meatmatters.com](http://www.meatmatters.com), or contact the Meat Advisory Panel via the website at [www.meatandhealth.com](http://www.meatandhealth.com)

## Infants and pre-school children (6 months to 4 years)



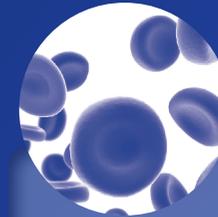
Body area



Brain



Eyes



Blood cells



Height



Bones

Nutrient



Iodine

Vitamin A

Iron

Zinc

Vitamin D

What it does



Iodine contributes to the functioning of the nervous system and aids the development of normal cognitive (mental) function

Vitamin A contributes to the maintenance of normal vision

Iron contributes to normal formation of red blood cells and haemoglobin, important for energy in a growing body

Zinc contributes to normal protein synthesis and DNA synthesis so is helpful for growth and development

Vitamin D contributes to the maintenance of normal bones and teeth. At this age, young children are learning to walk, talk and eat so normal bones and teeth are important for development

Infants and pre-school children (6 months to 4 years)



**Lamb and Vegetable  
Crumble**



**Cottage Jackets**



**Finger Foods**



Visit [www.meatandhealth.com](http://www.meatandhealth.com) to find recipes appropriate for the Seven Ages of Man.  
Each recipe is supplied with nutritional analysis.

## Pre-pubescent children (5 to 12 years)



Body area



Brain



Nose



Heart



Muscles



Energy

Nutrient



Vitamin B6

Vitamin A

Vitamin B12

Protein

Niacin

What it does



Vitamin B6 contributes to normal psychological function

Vitamin A contributes to the normal function of the immune system, important for keeping colds at bay when children go to school

Vitamin B12 contributes to normal red blood cell formation which is important for normal delivery of oxygen around a growing, active body

Meat protein has a high biological value and is easily assimilated by the body into tissues such as muscles

Niacin contributes to normal energy-yielding metabolism so helps energy to be extracted from foods

Pre-pubescent children (5 to 12 years)



**Giant's Beef Bread**



**One Pan Sausage Pasta**



**Shepherd's Pie with Bubble and Squeak Topping**

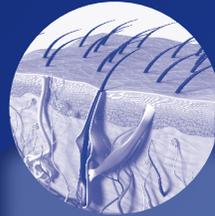


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## Teenagers (13 to 18 years)



Body  
area



Hair



Brain



Teeth



Skin



Fatigue

Nutrient



Zinc

Pantothenic  
acid

Phosphorus

Riboflavin  
(vitamin B2)

Iron

What it  
does



Zinc contributes to the maintenance of healthy hair and is important for teens concerned about their appearance

Pantothenic acid contributes to normal mental performance, important when exams loom

Phosphorus contributes to the maintenance of normal teeth

Riboflavin contributes to the maintenance of healthy skin

Iron contributes to normal cognitive function and reduces fatigue. Significant numbers of teenagers, particularly girls, have inadequate iron intakes

## Teenagers (13 to 18 years)



**Bacon, Tomato, Spinach & Ricotta Linguine**



**Lamb Rogan Josh**



**Piri Piri Burgers with Mediterranean Vegetables**

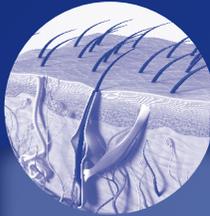


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## Adults of reproductive age (19-50 years)



Body area



Hair



Brain



Hormonal activity



Reproductive health



Physical activity

Nutrient



Zinc

Niacin

Vitamin B6

Selenium

Creatine

What it does



Zinc contributes to the maintenance of healthy hair and is involved in many different biological processes

Niacin contributes to normal psychological function and has a positive influence on mood and mental performance

Vitamin B6 contributes to the regulation of hormonal activity

Selenium contributes to normal reproductive health. Most adults have low intakes of selenium

Creatine increases physical performance in successive bursts of short-term, high intensity exercise, so is a natural support for physical activity

Adults of reproductive age (19-50 years)



**Bacon and Squeak**



**Lamb Moussaka**



**Latino Beef**

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## Pregnancy and lactation



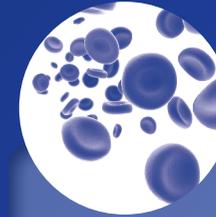
Body area



Brain



Teeth



Blood cells



Foetal brain



Fertility

Nutrient



Long-chain omega-3s

Phosphorus

Iron

Iodine

Zinc

What it does



Red meat contributes some omega-3s and is useful when oily fish (the best source) isn't an option

Phosphorus contributes to the maintenance of normal teeth. This is helpful as teeth are weaker during pregnancy

Iron has a role in the process of cell division and contributes to normal formation of red blood cells and haemoglobin

Iodine is important during pregnancy for normal mental development in the foetus

Zinc contributes to normal fertility and reproduction

## Pregnancy and lactation



**Bacon Beet Salad**



**Lamb Quesadilla**



**Spring Beef Stir-Fry**



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## Middle-age (51 -74 years)



Body area



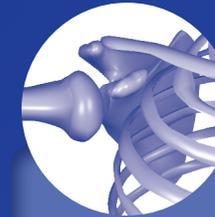
Tiredness



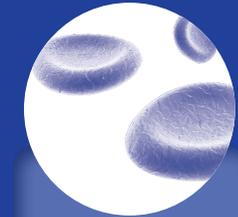
Heart



Weight control



Bones



Body cells

Nutrient



Iron

Vitamin B12

Protein

Vitamin D

Selenium

What it does



Iron contributes to the reduction of tiredness and fatigue

Vitamin B12 contributes to normal homocysteine metabolism which may be important in helping to reduce the risk of heart disease

Red meat is high in protein yet relatively low in calories and saturated fat. Research shows that high protein diets help support weight control

Vitamin D contributes to the maintenance of normal bones, particularly when combined with a good calcium intake

Selenium contributes to the protection of cells from oxidative stress, i.e. it is a powerful antioxidant

**Middle-age (51 -74 years)**



**Lamb Fajitas**



**Pork, Lime and Mint  
Stuffed Peppers**



**Steak Salad**



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## Older age (75 years and beyond)



Body area	Joints	Fatigue	Bones	Muscle strength	Cells
Nutrient	Omega-3s	Vitamin B12	Vitamin D	Protein	Riboflavin (vitamin B2)
What it does	Red meat contributes some omega-3s which can help alleviate pain and symptoms of inflammatory disorders such as rheumatoid arthritis	Vitamin B12 contributes to the reduction of tiredness and fatigue	Vitamin D contributes to the maintenance of normal muscle function. Research shows that low vitamin D levels are associated with a higher risk of falls	As muscles decline in old age (often called sarcopenia), a good quality source of protein can help to maintain muscle strength	Riboflavin contributes to the protection of cells from oxidative stress and so helps slow the effects of ageing

**Older age (75 years and beyond)**



**Pan cooked Liver with Onions and Rosemary**



**Quick Beef Fix**



**Speedy Roast Pork**



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