

Smart Life Forum

presents

James W. McAfee, CCN

on

Your Body's Sign Language: Clues to Nutritional Well-Being

Thursday, July 19, 2007
at 7:00 PM
Cubberly Center, Room H1
4000 Middlefield Road
Palo Alto, CA

Future Speakers:

August 16: Dr. Dominique J. Charron, MD, PhD, on *A Younger Immunity with White Blood Cells Transfusion*.

September 20: Lyn Henshaw, MD, *On Reducing Toxins for Better Health*

Short Presentation: Bernd Friedlander, ND, will discuss new information he has discovered on muscular degeneration. This will include the critical role of NF Kappa B in muscle atrophy of many diseases, such as muscular dystrophy, MS, and ALS. He will describe how feverfew and curcumin act as inhibitors of NF Kappa B activation. In addition he will discuss how glutathione and Vitamin C block NF Kappa B activation. Another activity that he has been working on is the use of extremely low frequencies with low intensity to help heal various chronic diseases and pain problems.

Meet James McAfee

Jim McAfee graduated Summa Cum Laude and valedictorian from Westmont College and Magna Cum Laude from Dallas Theological Seminary. His graduate dissertation was on the subject of fasting. This involved research at the Natural Hygiene School in San Antonio where at that time more fasts had been conducted than anywhere else in the world. This research clearly demonstrated that serious degenerative diseases like asthma and lymphodema were reversible through a combination of fasting and nutrition. The Natural Hygiene School permitted only organically grown foods in the diet after fasting. All foods had to be raw or steamed.

Jim became a Board Certified Clinical Nutritionist in 1991. In 2005 he was asked to join the Scientific Council of the International and American Association of Clinical Nutritionists, the board involved with the credentialing process for CCN's.

He has worked as Director of Nutritional Research for Image Awareness Wellness Institute since 1974. The Image Awareness website (www.imageawareness.com) contains numerous newsletters written by Jim over the years. A member's website with searchable newsletters and audios will soon be available.

Jim was recently honored by GNLD, a nutrition company operating in 55 different countries, by being asked to be one of ten health professionals worldwide to join the company's Health Professional's Council.

He will be speaking on the subject of his recently published book *Your Body's Sign Language: Clues to Nutritional Well-Being*. Jim has collected information on body signs over the 34 years he has been actively involved in nutrition research. This book discusses means of identifying nutritional deficiencies or the risk of developing degenerative diseases simply by examining an individual carefully and knowledgeably. Jim has been referred to by some as the Sherlock Holmes of Nutrition since the publication of his book.

Main Presentation

Value of Body Signs

A basic understanding of body signs is valuable for a number of reasons. It can provide either the health practitioner or the patient clues that all is not well and further investigation may be warranted. It may provide clues for the practitioner regarding certain types of testing which may be beneficial.

Millions of people in the United States do not have a clue as to the nutritional needs of their bodies. They assume that they are in good health if they can stand upright when the wind is blowing in the right direction (to borrow a phrase from Carlton Fredericks. This book has been a valuable tool to open the eyes of readers to their nutritional needs. A basic understanding of body signs has been a valuable tool to improve patient compliance.

Body signs are also a wonderful self-help tool. He has had one person after another tell him that they pick up the book to read about their own body signs. They become so interested in the topic that they then go back to the beginning of the book and read all the material. This can be a life transforming experience.

The Concept of Body Signs

The concept of a relationship between the diet of an individual and his physical appearance dates back at least as far as Giuseppe Arcimboldo (1530-1593). He painted pictures of people using vegetables, meats, fish, chickens and even kitchen utensils. The concept he was trying to convey was that what we eat shapes character and appearance.

William Sheldon, a psychologist in the 1940's, conceived the idea of body types. This included the endomorph who was short and round with a love for food, the ectomorph who was lean and frail with a delicate digestive tract, and the muscular mesomorph with a love for physical activity. This basic concept has been elaborated by later individuals including Robert Peshek and Elliot Abravanel.

Dr. Hans Selye was one of the first to observe that "sick people looked sick." This observation was very much involved in his subsequent development of the concept of stress. Weston A. Price, DDS, pioneered the idea that poor diet could alter physical appearance. He focused on changes in dental health and bone formation. Dr. Francis M. Pottenger, Jr. confirmed many of the observations of Weston Price with ten years of controlled feeding experiments with cats.

Body Shape

The discussion of specific body signs begins with body shape. Signs include "beer belly syndrome," obesity, small waist and Alzheimer's, and the upper body weight gain pattern. These derangements of body shape are often associated with blood sugar abnormalities. Consumption of refined carbohydrates probably has the largest effect on body shape contributing to weight gain and to diabetic risk for those who are genetically

susceptible to the disease. An emaciated appearance can reflect dieting, anorexia, digestive disorders, or other metabolic problems associated with nutrient utilization.

From Head to Toe

The hair and scalp can reflect circulatory impairments. The blood must pump against gravity to reach the top of the head. Baldness patterns in men have been associated with increased risk of heart attack. Loss of hair in women has been associated with iron deficiency; iron is an important nutrient for healthy blood. Premature loss of pigment of the hair can reflect nutrient deficiencies and serve as an indicator of an accelerated aging process. The hair is primarily composed of sulfur containing amino acids. Poor condition of the hair and scalp can reflect deficiencies of amino acids or essential fatty acids.

Someone once said that the eyes are a window to the soul. The eyes can provide clues to a number of nutritional problems. Tendencies to experience allergic responses are often reflected by changes in the appearance of the eyes and the tissues around the eyes. This can include dark circles around the eyes, puffiness resulting from fluid retention, and characteristic wrinkling patterns beneath the eyes. The reflectivity of the eye is a rough gauge of adequacy of specific nutrients like essential fatty acids, zinc and vitamin A.

Functionality of the eyes can also reflect nutritional status. Development of macular degeneration suggests deficiencies of photoprotective substances including lutein and zeaxanthin. Lutein appears to have an affinity for the peripheral retina and rods, while zeaxanthin seems to be preferentially taken up by the cones of the macula. Cataracts can reflect long term deficiencies of antioxidants and photoprotective nutrients. Diabetic cataracts can result from deficiencies of vitamin C and flavonoids. The elevated blood sugars associated with diabetes can interfere with vitamin C utilization.

Creasing of the ear lobe has been associated with increased risk of cardiovascular disease. The depth of the creases has been associated with increasing severity of hardening of the arteries. Ear lobe creasing may reflect oxidative damage to the tissues. Hearing loss is becoming increasingly common as people expose themselves to excessively loud sounds. Clients should be evaluated for hearing loss—simple tests are available. Nutrients can provide significant protection when the ears are exposed to loud sounds.

Mouth breathing causes oxygen deprivation of the tissues. The cause of the airway obstruction should be identified and addressed. Dr. James Garry suggests that

obstructions of the nasal cavity exist in 85% of all children in the United States. Allergy is a common contributor to this problem. Runny nose is also a common allergy indicator.

The mouth and teeth can provide significant nutritional and health indicators. The teeth provide a glance at mineral utilization and adequacy. They also reflect exposure to excessive fluoride (fluorosis) and mercury exposure as reflected by "silver" fillings. The mouth and gums are the site of first contact with foods put in the body. Inflammation or canker sores can reflect intolerance to foods. Cracks at the corner of the mouth can indicate excessive dehydration due to inadequate fluid intake or use of medications which cause fluid loss. Cracks at the corner of the mouth are also characteristic of vitamin B2 deficiency. Swelling of the tongue may serve as an allergy indicator or clue to adrenal weakness.

Electric shock sensation in the neck may indicate deficiency of vitamin B12. Anesthesia can deplete this important nutrient triggering this symptom following surgery.

The elasticity of the skin alters with age. Premature wrinkling and loss of elasticity can result from a lifetime of excessive free radical exposure and poor diet lacking in antioxidants. The skin can also indicate blood flow (ruddy complexion) and adequacy of carotenoids (slight yellowish tint to the skin). An abnormally pale skin may indicate anemia. The skin can also provide a clue to sun exposure (tanning) which may provide a clue to adequacy of vitamin D. Roughness of the skin and pigmentation may be a clue to niacin deficiency. Bumps on the skin or hardening around the hair follicles may result from deficiencies of vitamin C or vitamin A.

Alterations in the appearance of the hands are characteristic of rheumatoid and osteoarthritis. Swollen hands and carpal tunnel syndrome may suggest deficiencies of vitamin B6 or vitamin B12. The fingernails provide a nutritional history over the previous 6 months. White spots on the nails are often associated with deficiencies of zinc or protein. Weak, brittle nails may result from poor digestion, especially deficiency of stomach acid, protein, or biotin deficiency.

Back and leg problems can result from difficulties in mineral utilization. Back pain may improve with calcium, magnesium and cod liver oil supplementation. Leg cramping is commonly associated with energy deficits. Cramping of any muscle groups should be taken as a serious matter since it may suggest that the heart is at risk. Magnesium deficiencies are common with muscle cramping. Restless leg syndrome is strongly associated with excessive caffeine intake.

Internal Conditions

Evaluation of the process of elimination is one of the most neglected aspects of medicine. Numerous problems are associated with inadequate fiber intake and imbalances of intestinal flora. Transit time and stool shape and volume serve as valuable indicators of intestinal health. Urine can also provide health clues. A pink urine after eating beets may be indicative of iron deficiency.

Loss of appetite may result from serious deficiencies of zinc or vitamin B1. Loss of appetite can be life threatening. Binging may be indicative of an allergic response to a food or to excessive intake of sugar, salt, or hydrogenated oils. Bloating, burping, and bad breath may result from deficiency of hydrochloric acid or allergic responses to foods. Use of antacids may aggravate these problems as well as destroy the gastric barrier that protects us from microbial pathogens ingested with foods.

The brain and nerves are composed primarily of fatty acids. Depression, anxiety, or memory difficulties can result from toxic exposures, inefficient energy production by these tissues, or by deficiencies of key nutritional building blocks of healthy brain and nerve cells. Exposure to mercury is probably a significant contributor to autism and Alzheimer's. Zinc and magnesium are particularly important supports for the normal functioning of the ionic channels in nerve cells. Allergic response can be a significant contributor to depression, migraine and neuropathy.

Internal conditions can be suggestive. A rapid pulse is suggestive of allergic response to foods or inhalants. Dizziness when rising suddenly may be indicative of adrenal weakness. Chronic pain is commonly caused by deficient bone mineralization and vitamin D deficiencies.

There has been a dramatic increase in the incidence of male and female problems such as breast cancer, prostate cancer, and benign prostatic hypertrophy over the last several decades. These problems are probably contributed to in a significant way by toxic exposures to estrogenic chemical pollutants, and deficiencies of iodine and vitamin D.

Full details and documentation for these body signs is available in Jim McAfee's book *Your Body's Sign Language: Clues to Nutritional Well-Being*.

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