

High blood pressure: how to stay safe when active

Aerobic physical activity can help you manage and improve your blood pressure.

Aerobic activities work your heart and lungs. Aim for 150 minutes of aerobic activities each week, such as brisk walking or swimming.

It is important to be safe when you are active.

This handout provides some safety tips for you to follow.

Medications and your safety

Are you on medication for your blood pressure, such as a diuretic, beta blocker or similar medication? Check with your health care provider to find out.

You can still be physically active, but you will need to follow a few safety steps.

- 1) Stay cool. Your medication may make it harder for your body to cool itself when you are active. Keep your body cool by:
 - ✓ drinking lots of water while being active
 - ✓ being active in the morning or evening when it is cooler (if the weather is hot or humid)
 - ✓ decreasing the intensity (how hard you push yourself) and/or the length of time you are active when the weather or workout location is hot or humid

Drink lots of water before, during and after physical activity.



2) Your medication may affect your blood sugar levels. This may make you feel a bit light-headed. If you feel light-headed or dizzy:

- ✓ stop your activity, or slow down
- ✓ take a glucose tablet, or eat a piece of candy
- ✓ do not resume your activity until you feel well

General safety tips

Here are some general safety tips to keep in mind when you are physically active:

- ✓ do not hold your breath
- ✓ start with light- or moderate-intensity sessions
- ✓ listen to your body and take breaks as needed
- ✓ always warm-up and cool-down

Remember:

Aerobic physical activity can help you manage and improve your blood pressure. But make sure you stay safe and have fun when being physically active.

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