

FLUID RESTRICTION

1. The Hard Truth

Let's start with the serious fact that fluid is "no laughing matter." Excess fluid is a true danger to your heart. That extra fluid weight makes your heart work harder to pump blood through the body. Over time it can lead to an enlarged heart with weak muscles. A weak heart can't pump oxygen rich blood to the body as fast as it is needed.

So, you ask, how do I know the right amount of fluid to drink in order to prevent this from happening to me?

2. The Fluid Allowance

To determine your fluid restriction, find out how much urine you make in a 24 hour period. Add that amount to 4 cups (8 oz. per cup), a dialysis patient's normal daily allowance. For example: you may make ½ cup (4 oz.) urine in 24 hours; after adding this to 4 cups (32 oz.), you know your fluid restriction is 4 ½ cups (36 oz.) in every 24 hours. An inexpensive measuring container can be found at most dollar stores to use for this collection.

3. Liquids are anything that melts at room temperature. This includes gelatin, popsicles, sherbet, soup and beverages.

4. Helpful tips to stay within your limit:

- Complete your full treatment time to remove all fluids gained.
- 4 hour treatment time or more is optimal.
- Use a small cup for drinking (4 oz.)
- Freeze fruit such as grapes for an ice cold snack.
- Rinse your mouth frequently. Half strength mouthwash can be kept in the refrigerator for this purpose.
- Use chap-stick regularly.
- Chew gum or suck on hard candies.
- Avoid salty foods as they will make you thirsty.
- 1 cup of ice = about ½ cup of water.
- Popsicles are a good way to cool down. 1 single stick popsicle = 1/4 cup fluid (2oz.)