

C O P I N G • W I T H HEARTBURN & REFLUX

If you are one of the millions of people who suffer from heartburn, the most common symptom of reflux, there are things you can do to improve your health and enhance the quality of your life.

- 1.** Avoid spicy, acidic, tomato-based, or fatty foods like chocolate, citrus fruits and fruit juices.



- 2.** Limit your intake of coffee, tea, alcohol and colas.



- 3.** Watch your weight. (Being overweight increases intra-abdominal pressure, which can aggravate reflux.



- 4.** Don't skip eating, but avoid excessively large meals.



- 5.** Don't exercise for two hours after eating.



- 6.** Avoid bedtime snacks and eat meals at least 3 to 4 hours before lying down.



- 7.** Stop (or at least cut down) on smoking.



- 8.** Elevate the head of your bed six inches with blocks.



- 9.** See your physician if you are taking antacids three or more times a week.

