



Diet Guidelines for Liver Blood Deficiency

Blood deficiency in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM for short) is a broader term than simply anemia. Like Yin, Blood in TCM refers to the body's overall fluids and nourishment. A diagnosis of Liver Blood deficiency means that this aspect of the Liver organ network is compromised. To address this, a diet that is nutrient rich and building is recommended.

In general it is best to eat foods that are lightly cooked to ensure that nutrients are preserved and are more readily digested and absorbed. General dietary recommendations to prevent deficiency include eating high quality proteins, lightly cooked vegetables and chewing meals thoroughly.

Meals should emphasize leafy green vegetables, roughly 30% to 40 % of your diet and high quality protein sources, roughly 20% - 30% of your diet. The balance of the diet should centre around complex carbohydrates, like whole grains and lightly cooked vegetables.

Below is a list of recommended foods. You should not limit your diet to only these foods. Instead follow the guidelines above of the optimum ratios of carbohydrates, vegetables and proteins, and add the recommended foods from the list below within your meals. Where ever possible choose organically grown foods.



Specific foods for Liver Blood deficiency

cooked whole grains, rice, oats, roasted barley, sweet rice, spelt, millet
pumpkin, sweet potatoes, squash, carrots, corn, parsnips, yams, peas, stewed fruit, onions, leeks, garlic, turnip, mushrooms including oyster & shitake, spinach, chard, kale, chinese greens, beets, parsley, lychee fruit, coconut, grapes, cherries
legumes in general, chick peas, black beans, kidney beans, fava beans, tempeh
chicken, beef, pork, Chinese black boned chicken, quail, goose, rabbit, frog, organic liver, pigeon, eggs, organic bone marrow
mackerel, tuna, anchovy, perch, eel, catfish, oysters, mussels, shark, shrimp, prawns, clams, seaweeds
fresh ginger, black sesame seeds, molasses, rice syrup, barley malt, dates, figs, sugar cane
wheat grass, miso, vegemite, marmite



Foods to restrict or avoid

salads, raw fruits, sprouts, raw vegetables
excess amounts of tofu, dairy or nut butters and other high oil foods
overly sweet foods, refined sugars, high doses of vitamin C, chocolate
cold foods like ice cream or smoothies
iced drinks including ice water

References:

Clinical Handbook Of Internal Medicine, Vol. 2. MacLean & Lyttleton. University of Western Sydney: Australia. 2002.
Chinese Dietary Therapy. Liu, J. Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1995.
The Healing Cuisine of China. Zhao & Ellis. Healing Arts Press: Vermont. 1998.

Disclaimer

This factsheet is not intended to diagnose or assess. The information provided is not to be considered a substitute for consultation with a qualified health care practitioner.