



**CEDARS-SINAI MEDICAL CENTER.**  
**Blood Services**

**IRON RICH FOODS**

Your body needs iron to manufacture healthy red blood cells, the cells that deliver oxygen from the lungs to all the tissues of the body. Iron is obtained from dietary sources, and it is recommended that men and post menopausal women consume 10 mg/day. During childbearing years women should ingest 15-18mg/day, to make up for iron lost through menstrual bleeding. Blood donors should pay special attention to eating iron-rich foods, and frequent blood donors (more than 2-3 units of blood/year) may want to consider taking a multivitamin with iron, or an iron supplement.

Iron is present in many different foods, so eating a varied and healthful diet is important. Vitamin C enhances the absorption of iron, and eating iron rich foods along with a source of vitamin C (citrus fruits and juices, etc) can help replenish your body's iron stores. Also, iron may be absorbed into foods that have been cooked in iron cookware.

Drinking coffee or tea with a meal can greatly decrease iron absorption, therefore it is best not to drink them within one hour of mealtime. Iron absorption can also be lowered by antacid use or a diet excessive in fiber. Dairy products such as cheese, cottage cheese, milk and yogurt, although rich in calcium, have negligible iron content. It is important to eat a variety of foods every day.



Here is a list of iron rich foods:

<b>HIGH IRON RICH FOODS (MORE THAN 2 mg)</b>		<b>MODERATE IRON RICH FOODS (1-2 mg)</b>	
Canned Clams (3 oz)	23.8 mg	Fish, Tuna canned (3 oz)	1.3 mg
Oysters (3 oz)	13.2 mg	Chicken Breast (3 oz)	1.1 mg
Shrimp (3 oz)	2.6 mg	Turkey, Dark Meat (3 oz)	2.0 mg
Ground Beef (3 oz)	2.2 mg	Turkey, Light Meat (3 oz)	1.1 mg
Pork (3 oz)	2.7 mg	Beans: (½ Cup)	
Veal or Lamb (3 oz)	3.0 mg	(Black, Pinto, Great Northern	
Beef Liver (3 oz)	5.2 mg	or Garbanzo)	1.6-1.8 mg
Chicken Liver (3 oz)	10.8 mg	Beets, Canned (½ Cup)	1.5 mg
Spinach (½ Cup) cooked or (1 Cup) raw	3.0 mg	Brussel sprouts (½ Cup)	2.0 mg
Beans (½ Cup)		Greens: Collards or Beet (½ Cup)	1.2 mg
(Kidney, Lima, Navy, or Canned White)	2.6-3.9 mg	Greens: Swiss Chard (½ Cup)	2.0 mg
Lentils (½ Cup)	3.5 mg	Mushrooms (½ Cup)	1.4 mg
Soybeans (½ Cup)	4.4 mg	Peas, Frozen (½ Cup)	1.2 mg
Swiss chard (½ Cup)	2.0 mg	Potato, Baked with skin on (medium)	1.9 mg
Pumpkin Seeds (1 oz)	4.2 mg	Sweet Potato,	
Veggie or Soy Burger (1 Patty)	2.9 mg	Baked with skin on (medium)	1.1 mg
Tomato Paste (½ Cup)	3.9 mg	Sauerkraut, canned (½ Cup)	1.7 mg
Tofu, Firm (½ Cup)	3.4 mg	Tomato Sauce (½ Cup)	1.3 mg
Soy Milk (2 Cups)	2.7 mg	Wheat Germ (2t)	1.1 mg
Cereal (½ Cup)	2-12 mg	Nuts:	
Instant or Prepared Grits (½ Cup)	7.1 mg	Almonds or Pistachios (¼ Cup)	1.3 mg
Chex Mix (¾ Cup)	7.0 mg	Pine or cashews (1oz)	1.6 mg
Cream of Wheat (½ Cup)	5.2 mg	Walnuts or mixed (1oz)	1.0 mg
Oatmeal,(½ Cup)		Enriched Egg Noodles (½ Cup)	1.2 mg
Instant fortified with iron	5.0 mg	Large Egg (1)	1.0 mg
Biscuit (4 in)	2.9 mg	Pita (4 in. round)	1.0 mg
English or Bran Muffin	2.3 mg		
Bagel (4 in)	3.5-5.4 mg		
Pretzels (2 oz)	3.1 mg		