

# ***ADRENAL BURNOUT SYNDROME***

by Lawrence Wilson, MD

Thousands of people suffer from constant fatigue that is not relieved by rest and sleep. This is the main symptom of adrenal weakness or *adrenal burnout syndrome*. This article examines this extremely common syndrome – its causes, symptoms and the process of recovery of vibrant health by natural methods.

## **WHAT ARE THE ADRENAL GLANDS?**

The adrenal glands are rounded, disc-shaped glands about 3-4 inches across. One sits atop each kidney, located on either side of your lower back, just above where the ribs end. You may at times feel a sensation of pressure in this area when under stress. However, muscular tension and other factors also commonly cause pain or a sensation of pressure in this area.

The adrenal glands are essential for life. They secrete a number of hormones that prepare our bodies to respond to stress. These include *adrenalin*, also called *epinephrine*, *noradrenalin*, also called *norepinephrine*, *cortisol* and *cortisone*. The adrenal glands also produce *aldosterone*, *estrogens*, *testosterone*, *progesterone*, *pregnenelone* and *DHEA*.

These hormones regulate many body activities. Of greatest importance for this article is that the adrenal hormones, particularly adrenalin and cortisol, activate the body's fight-or-flight response.

This consists of increasing the amount of glucose or sugar in the blood, raising blood pressure, and promoting increased energy production. There are many other effects of the adrenal hormones, but we will focus on these effects for now.

Of great importance to our discussion is that the adrenal glands are innervated and stimulated by activity of the sympathetic branch of the autonomic or automatic nervous system of the body. This is the part of our nervous system that activates when we must respond to threats to our life.

## A DEFINITION OF ADRENAL BURNOUT

The adrenal glands may develop various types of problems. Before we define adrenal burnout, let us briefly discuss these rarer conditions.

**Cushing's disease.** Severe overactivity or hyperfunction of the glands is called Cushing's syndrome or Cushing's disease. It is characterized by a 'moon face', obesity in the trunk, muscle weakness, poor wound healing, kidney stones and often psychological symptoms.

This condition is relatively rare and usually caused by a tumor of the adrenal glands that secretes cortisol or cortisone, two of the important adrenal hormones.

**Addison's disease.** Extremely low adrenal activity is known as Addison's disease. It is characterized by weakness, fatigue, low blood pressure, changes in skin color, dehydration, anorexia, nausea, decreased cold tolerance and dizziness. It is also a fairly rare condition, though I have met people who say they have Addison's disease when they really are just in adrenal burnout, which is very different.

Addison's disease is also caused at times by a tumor on the adrenal glands that shuts down the glands completely. It may also be caused by a severe shock to the system, as happened in the famous case of John F. Kennedy.

Mr. Kennedy developed Addison's disease when his small patrol boat was suddenly rammed by a Japanese destroyer on a dark night during World War II. Most of the crew was killed instantly. He survived, but the shock damaged his body severely.

**Adrenal burnout syndrome.** Adrenal burnout syndrome is basically a mild form of Addison's disease. It is a low functioning or underactivity of the adrenal glands. It may also be termed *adrenal insufficiency* or *adrenal exhaustion*. It differs from Addison's disease in several important ways:

1. In most cases, it can be corrected using natural methods. We do not like using cortisone therapy or any bio-identical hormone therapy for this condition. Most often it is not needed and just slows true recovery of the adrenal glands.

2. In most cases, the cause is not a single shock to the system, as with Addison's disease. Instead, it is usually a slow decline in adrenal activity due to nutritional deficiencies and the accumulation of toxic metals

and chemicals in the body. As these causes are removed, the adrenal glands easily recover.

3. Unlike Addison's disease, adrenal insufficiency or burnout is very, very common today, especially among adults. However, few physicians are prepared to diagnose it.

**Fatigue versus adrenal burnout.** Adrenal burnout syndrome differs from simple fatigue in that burnout is not relieved by getting a few good nights sleep, as is the case with fatigue.

This is the case because adrenal exhaustion is not just a sleep deficit, although that may be an aspect of the syndrome. Burnout is a deeper derangement of the body's energy-producing system, of which fatigue is one symptom.

## **DETECTING ADRENAL BURNOUT**

Unfortunately, when a patient complains of fatigue, depression or other symptoms that are often related to the adrenal glands, most of the time the doctor does not ask the right questions and does not run tests of the adrenal glands.

Instead, patients are told to take a vacation, or given an anti-depressant, or told it is "in their head".

The right questions, however, would often be enough to assess the condition fairly accurately. These would include "How many hours of sleep are you getting?", "Do you use caffeine or other stimulants" and "What other symptoms are you having?". Let us examine how this can often identify adrenal burnout, even without other testing.

**Signs and symptoms.** A simple and quite reliable way to assess adrenal burnout in a general sense is with signs and symptoms. A common sign, for example, is a low blood pressure in the absence of other obvious causes.

Usually, the person will also often feel fatigued, even though one sleeps well. If one is not sleeping, the problem may simply be a sleep deficit. One may not feel tired, however, if you drink coffee, other caffeinated beverages or use other stimulants.

Another common symptom is depression. Others include joint pain, cravings for sweets, pain in the low back area and perhaps excessive

thirst or craving for sweet and salty foods. Together these symptoms can help one decide if one needs further testing.

**Hair mineral analysis.** We have been using hair mineral analysis to help assess the condition of the adrenal glands for almost 30 years. We have done over 15,000 of them and are very satisfied with our results using this method.

Indicators for adrenal insufficiency on the hair mineral test, provided the sample is not washed at the laboratory, include:

1. A sodium/potassium ratio less than about 2:1.
2. A sodium/magnesium ratio of 1:1 or less.
3. A copper level of 10 mg% (100 parts per million) or more.

The hair mineral test also tells us how to correct the condition and is a very cost-effective and non-invasive test. In a few instances, high amounts of toxic metals in the body or other imbalances can distort the readings.

In these cases, we begin a nutritional balancing program based on what is revealed on the test. The true condition of the adrenals will be revealed on a retest in several months in almost all cases.

For this reason, we do not require any other type of testing besides the hair analysis and a complete list of all physical and mental symptoms.

**Blood, urine and saliva hormone testing.** Many holistic doctors today are testing the levels of adrenal hormones in the blood, urine or saliva. This is definitely a step in the right direction. However, we do not use these tests, as a rule, for the following reasons:

1. Not needed. We find the hair mineral test, when understood properly, provides plenty of information about adrenal activity.
2. Cost. Hormone tests are usually several hundred dollars. This is prohibitive for many people, especially compared to the hair mineral test.

## **CAUSES OF ADRENAL BURNOUT**

**Excessive stress**, an important cause of burnout, can be from many sources. Chemical toxicity and nutritional depletion are among the physical causes. Mental, emotional or spiritual stress may be a major factor. Financial, family or other stress may also contribute to burnout.

Any excessive stress can deplete the adrenals, especially when weakened by poor nutrition. Working too much or emotional stress are

two common causes. Excessive stimulation, especially for children, is another cause. Fast-paced, high-stress, fear-based lifestyles are a sure prescription for adrenal burnout.

Other stressors in cities are noise and electromagnetic pollution. Cell phones, microwave towers and appliances like televisions, microwave ovens and computers give off strong electrical fields.

**Nutritional Deficiencies** are a common cause. When under stress, the need for nutrients is much greater. Carbohydrates, when excessive in the diet, stress the adrenals. Diets low in protein may also create deficiencies. Inadequate or poor quality water affects oxygenation of the tissues.

Most diets are low in nutrients required by the adrenals. These include B-complex vitamins, vitamins A, C and E, manganese, zinc, chromium, selenium and other trace elements. The reasons for this begin with how food is grown. Most food is grown on depleted soils. Processing and refining further deplete nutrients.

Habits such as eating in the car or while on the run further diminish the value derived from food. Also, allergic reactions to foods such as wheat and dairy products can damage the intestines and reduce the absorption of nutrients.

**Toxic metals and chemicals** often play a large role in adrenal burnout. Everyone is exposed to thousands of chemicals in the air, the water and the food. Other sources are dental materials and skin contact with chemicals. Over-the-counter and prescribed medications add to the body's toxic load. Most people do not realize that antibiotics and many other drugs accumulate to some extent in the liver and other organs.

Toxins may also be generated within the body due to impaired digestion. When food is not properly digested, it either ferments or rots in the intestines, producing many harmful substances that are absorbed into the body.

A healthy body has the ability to eliminate many toxins on a daily basis. However, as adrenal weakness develops, the body's ability to eliminate all toxins decreases. This produces a vicious cycle in which weaker adrenals impairs the elimination of all poisons, which then further weakens the adrenals.

**Chronic infections play a critical role in some cases of adrenal exhaustion.** Chronic infections may originate in infected teeth or gums,

though they can be located anywhere in the body. They contribute greatly to the toxic load of the body. Infections also cause inflammation and stress that must be countered using the adrenal hormones such as cortisol and cortisone.

**Stimulants** damage the adrenal glands. They whip the adrenals. Caffeine, sugar and alcohol are among the most common stimulants.

Less obvious but no less important stimulants may include anger, rage, arguing, hatred, loud music, fearful news and even movies full of suspense or violence.

Other activities that may act as stimulants and must not be overlooked include vigorous exercise, sexual preoccupations, recreational drug use or other thrills. These often provide a temporary “high”, which is caused in part by the secretion of high amounts of adrenal hormones. However, over time, this weakens the adrenals and can eventually lead to adrenal depletion and insufficiency.

**Stimulant use, however, can also be a result of adrenal burnout.** While stimulants can cause or contribute to adrenal weakness, some who use stimulants do so because they are in adrenal burnout already.

Stimulants are attractive to one in burnout to provide temporary energy. This is an important appeal of the drug culture, both legal and recreational. It is also the appeal of loud music, sexual addiction, and even anger.

These activities or attitudes can provide enough adrenal stimulation to allow a person to feel better temporarily. This is an important reason why giving up one’s addictions can be difficult. When one gives them up, one must face the fact that one is exhausted, depressed and often just feels awful due to adrenal burnout. It is safe to say that most people addicted to stimulants or other drugs including cigarettes, cocaine, marijuana, and others has some degree of adrenal insufficiency.

**Unhealthy responses to stress** are another cause of adrenal burnout. These include habits of worrying, or becoming angry or afraid. *Don’t worry, be happy* is a great prescription for adrenal burnout. This applies particularly to high strung, nervous individuals and those with very active minds, as they are especially prone to adrenal burnout.

**Congenital Weak adrenals.** Many children today are born with weak adrenals due to their parents’ nutritional deficiencies. This is not a genetic problem. Instead, it is due to the nutritional imbalances of the

mother, in particular. These are passed through the placenta to the unborn child.

For example, if the mother is zinc-deficient, as most are, the baby is born low in zinc and often high in copper, cadmium or other minerals that substitute for zinc to a degree. Fortunately, this means the problem can be corrected, though it is better to prevent it, of course. By age three or four, these children are in burnout. They are often sick, depressed and have difficulty in school. Some of these children react to the situation by becoming hyperactive, compulsive, obsessive or by developing various other behavior problems.

On their hair mineral analyses, these children are often in a state of burnout at this early age, a relatively new phenomenon, in my experience. By gently rebuilding their body chemistry, however, their behavioral and other disorders generally vanish in a few months to a few years.

## **SYMPTOMS OF ADRENAL BURNOUT**

Common symptoms include fatigue, some weakness and often depression. Others may be a craving for sweets, low blood pressure and low blood sugar. Low energy impairs every system of the body. Thus, secondary symptoms can range from impaired digestion, aches and pains to chronic or recurring infections.

**Emotional and mental symptoms.** Often, emotional and psychological symptoms are present or even predominant. Depression is very common. Apathy, despair and even suicidal tendencies are also quite common. Emotional instability, mood swings, bipolar disorder, anxiety, and irritability are also common symptoms associated with adrenal burnout syndrome. The world can look evil, one loses faith in people, and a hopeless attitude is not uncommon.

Compulsiveness and obsessive-compulsive tendencies may be associated with adrenal burnout. One may become addicted or very attracted to excessive exercise, sex, loud music or other forms of excitement. The unconscious goal is always the same, to stimulate the adrenals into activity.

**Many areas of life affected.** Adrenal burnout affects every area of life. One may lose interest in friends, family and work. Relationships often suffer when one person in the relationship goes into adrenal

exhaustion.

Unfortunately, many with adrenal burnout function on anger and resentment. These act as adrenal stimulants, providing a negative energy with which to function. Most of the world, in fact, functions on the negative energy of anger.

**Bigger implications.** While it is beyond the scope of this article, entire nations can go into adrenal exhaustion as a result of wars, famines and other catastrophes. When this occurs, the attitudes of the people change, and with it the leaders they elect.

This has happened many times in history, and is an important hidden factor in our politics of today in America. For example, a population in burnout does not feel capable of taking care of themselves. They will vote for more and more government welfare programs, often bankrupting the nation, without understanding the consequences of their votes.

## **THE PHYSIOLOGY OF ADRENAL BURNOUT**

**Low cortisol symptoms.** Low blood sugar, low blood pressure, low temperature, depression, joint pain and allergies may result from low levels of cortisol. Multiple chemical sensitivity is an extreme allergic condition associated with adrenal burnout. Later, blood pressure may rise as toxic substances build up in the arteries and kidneys.

**Copper toxicity and burnout.** Elevated copper and low zinc related to adrenal burnout impair the immune system. Chronic infections may develop. The stage is also set for the development of degenerative conditions. Cancer, heart disease, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases may be end-stage results of toxic accumulation and energy depletion.

**Thyroid imbalances and burnout.** Often secondary to adrenal exhaustion are other glandular imbalances such as hypothyroidism. The thyroid gland and the adrenals have a very close relationship and stress on one always affects the other.

Much less common is the development of a secondary hyperthyroidism, or overactivity of the thyroid. This may be a compensation for low adrenals, as the condition will disappear as the adrenals are allowed to rest and rebuild.

The adrenal glands produce estrogen and progesterone. They are the main source of these hormones after menopause. Premenstrual

syndrome and hot flashes often have to do with weakened adrenal glands.

**Reduced cellular energy production.** Depression and apathy are often the result of low energy production in the cells. Also, cortisol provides a natural 'high'. Thus, low cortisol can contribute to feelings of depression and even despair. Unsure if there is energy to get through the day, anxiety may occur. Irritability is common as one is less able to handle even minor stress.

**Burnout and metal toxicity.** When the adrenals are weak, copper builds up in the body. Elevated copper enhances emotions. Panic attacks, bipolar disorder, mood swings and schizophrenia are related to copper imbalance. As one's energy level declines, other toxic metals build up as well. Mercury, cadmium, lead, arsenic, beryllium and others contribute to hundreds of physical and emotional symptoms.

## MYTHS ABOUT BURNOUT

**Myth #1. Burnout is psychological.** Burnout is a breakdown of the energy system of the body. Vital minerals are depleted or "burned out" (used up) and replaced by toxic metals. Psychological stress may be a cause, and burnout can affect one's emotions and behavior. However, burnout itself is biochemical, not only psychological.

Recovery may involve improving emotions and dealing with psychological issues. However, it also involves rebuilding body chemistry because it is a physical condition as well.

**Myth #2. People in burnout have no energy and cannot work.** Many in burnout hold full-time jobs or other active lifestyles. They may also appear in good health. However, they are often tired or stressed. They may require stimulants in order to keep going. Some bury themselves in their work to forget how tired they feel. One can go on like this for years in some degree of adrenal burnout. This usually stops, however, when burnout gets very serious, as there is not enough energy to continue working hard and living a very active life.

**Myth #3. Vigorous exercise is good for burnout.** Vigorous exercise can be attractive to those in burnout. Exercise may temporarily make one feel better. While it may provide a boost, vigorous exercise further exhausts the bodies of those in burnout. People in burnout need to

reduce exercise, often to a minimum. This helps conserve their energy and helps to allow their adrenals to rebuild.

Exercise in moderation can assist circulation and oxygenation, factors that may help with burnout. However, excessive exercise of any kind uses up energy and adrenal reserves that individuals in burnout do not have and cannot afford to lose.

**Myth #4. A vacation, a diet or a nutritional supplement can cause recovery from burnout.** Most people never recover from burnout, although they could if they followed a nutritional balancing program to the letter. Recovery also requires a strong commitment to healing. Recovery also takes at least several years. If one recovers faster, one was not in adrenal burnout.

**Myth #5. Burnout occurs mainly in men.** In fact, it is more common in women today. This is due mainly to lifestyle changes in women. Many women now work outside the home and raise the children as well. Many are also in single-parent homes or both parents work just to pay the bills and taxes.

Women are also more prone to copper toxicity, thyroid imbalances and other factors that can contribute to adrenal burnout. Women also do not realize in most cases they are different from men and have greater needs for rest and sleep. For all these reasons, we see more burnout in women today than in men.

**Myth #6. Burnout only occurs in those in high-stress jobs.** Burnout occurs in all groups, regardless of occupation, income or educational level. In fact, many homeless people are burned out. This helps account for why they may give up hope or be incapable of holding a job or supporting a home. In addition, burnout is a worldwide phenomenon today and is not limited to certain parts of the globe.

**Myth #7. Burnout occurs only in adults.** In fact, it is common today in children and even babies. Most children today are being born nutritionally depleted and toxic as a result of the ill health of the parents. This can be measured with mineral analysis. Minimal brain dysfunction, chronic ear or other infections, crib death, delayed development, learning disorders, failure to thrive, ADHD, autism and anti-social behavior may all be symptoms related to adrenal dysfunction in our children.

Vaccination, wholesale drugging of the children and other abominations led by our public health authorities and the medical

profession are only making the problems worse in the long term. Children usually respond very rapidly to nutritional balancing program. This is not at all the same as throwing a lot of good food and vitamins at a child. It must be targeted, based on a properly performed and correctly interpreted hair mineral analysis. I teach this science to anyone who will listen.

**Myth #8. Burnout affects only physical health.** Burnout affects every area of life. Family and work are often affected. Relationships often suffer. One may lose interest in everyone and everything. There simply is not enough energy available for intimate relationships or for activities beyond those required for survival. Friends, family and employers are often unaware of what is occurring, which only worsens the situation.

**Myth #9. A hectic lifestyle causes burnout.** This may be one of many causes. Oddly, however, a hectic lifestyle can also be a result of burnout. Excessive activity, overwork and a very busy life can be a way to stimulate one into action and a compensation for feelings of exhaustion. When such a one stops working and running around, he will feel just how exhausted and perhaps depressed he really is.

A hectic lifestyle can therefore be a stimulant, like caffeine or loud music. It always makes burnout worse, but it may be the result of burnout, not the original cause.

**Myth #10. Overwork for years causes burnout.** This is possible. However, adrenal burnout may also occur quickly due to a single shock or just a few traumas that occur in rapid succession. In some cases, however, it is not related to any single trauma or activity. Often a combination of factors causes burnout.

Whether one goes into burnout from an illness, accident, divorce, overwork or other stress depends very much on one's ability to handle stress, rather than the absolute amount of stress. In other words, some people handle stress and trauma far better than others. For this reason, we recommend a grounding, centering meditation to everyone with adrenal exhaustion. For more information about this, click on the article on this website entitled, [Meditation](#).

**Myth #11. Burnout is an overused term without a scientific basis.** Just because burnout doesn't show up on x-rays or certain blood tests does not mean it is not real. Burnout can be measured and

quantified using tissue mineral testing and hormone testing. The term is not overused. In fact it is greatly underused. A large percentage of the population is in burnout and it would be helpful if physicians understood it better, even if they have no drug “cure” for it.

**Myth #12. Plenty of sleep will take care of burnout.**

Unfortunately, this is not so. The person in burnout is unable to regenerate itself adequately during sleep. In fact, waking up tired after 8-10 hours of sleep is a primary symptom of burnout. Like a weak battery, the body does not recharge itself during sleep.

**Myth #13. Cleaning out toxins will take care of burnout.** The accumulation of toxins that occurs as the body can no longer remove them properly contributes to burnout. Exposure to toxic metals or chemicals can be an important factor in burnout. Eliminating them is helpful. However, energy is required to release toxins. If the energy system is weak, just fasting or detoxifying will not be enough. Fasting, in fact, can and usually does make the situation worse.

One must rebuild the entire energy system by balancing body chemistry and providing nutrients as well. A one-month or even six-month ‘cleanse’ is nowhere near adequate. It can take over a year just to replenish one mineral.

**Warning** - For those in later stages of burnout, some yin detoxification programs such as fasting, raw foods or even chelating agents can be dangerous. This is because These therapies can further deplete certain minerals or unbalance body chemistry in ways that can be quite dangerous. Also, the eliminative organs are compromised. As a result, toxins that such programs release from various storage tissues may be redeposited in more vital organs such as the brain. This can significantly worsen one’s health.

A gentle, complete program of rebuilding and nourishing the body must accompany any efforts to eliminate toxins. In fact, as vitality improves, toxin elimination will proceed on its own.

**Myth # 14. One will come out of burnout when one changes whatever factor or behavior caused the burnout.** This means that if you just quit your stressful job or your stressful marriage, you will recover from burnout.

I wish this were true. It is not how it works, however. As one goes into burnout, vital minerals become depleted and toxic substances

replace them. The toxic metals become part of the structure of enzymes and even parts of organs and glands. For this reason, although one changes one's diet, lifestyle, attitudes or behavior, the toxins remain. This is very frustrating for people who expect a recovery after they leave a stressful situation such as a bad marriage, for instance.

**Myth #15. To recover from burnout, just reestablish close communication with those who are close to you.** This is the cure for burnout in one popular book. Re-establishing excellent communication with those you love is always helpful. However, in my experience it is usually not enough. In fact, it can be a source of frustration. Reason for this are:

1. As stated earlier in this paper, your loved ones often do not and cannot understand what has happened to you.
2. Burnout often affects your perception and attitudes. Therefore re-establishing good relationships can be complex.
3. Burnout is usually a multi-faceted problem that demands a more complete approach than just communicating better.

**Myth #16. To get out of burnout, one needs to get back in touch with oneself.** As with Myth #15, this is an excellent concept, but in my experience is not nearly enough for recovery. One reason is that getting in touch with oneself is often complicated when the brain has excessive toxins, thanks to adrenal exhaustion.

Burnout, for example, often causes terribly low self-esteem because one's energy is low and thinking is foggy or clouded. Adrenal burnout causes most of its victims to become overly introspective. This is helpful in some ways, but damaging in others. The positive side of this is discussed at the end of this paper, and is very important not to miss.

**Myth # 17. One can recover from burnout in a matter of months.** It takes at least two years and often longer. Layers of toxins, infections and other adaptations and compensations must be undone. Each adaptation uses up energy so that when one begins correction, there is little energy to work with. This slows progress and is one reason correction takes several years.

Eliminating toxins that have become integral parts of the organs and glands also takes time, like rebuilding a house. Also, most people must replenish twenty or thirty trace minerals. This takes time, even if one

does all the correct procedures to restore one's health.

If one truly recovers in a few months, a person was not in severe burnout. However, often, a small recovery can feel like a cure when it is not. As an analogy, those in burnout need an overhaul, not a tune up. One needs to commit to doing whatever it takes and devoting a few years to healing. This needs to become one's primary occupation or job for a while, allowing all other interests and activities to become secondary to the commitment to healing.

**Myth #18. Burnout is not an important medical problem unless the stress of burnout causes high blood pressure or another symptom.** Burnout is degenerative exhaustion. It sets the stage for all degenerative diseases, because energy is a common denominator of health.

All illnesses start with fatigue. The body is like a newer car with power steering, power brakes and power windows. When the power goes down, the entire car stops working right. Burnout is a serious medical problem, although symptoms may be vague and unrelated to a specific disease.

**Myth #19. Burnout is new phenomenon.** In fact, burnout is as old as humanity. Understanding adrenal exhaustion can even help us understand the rise and fall of civilizations. For example, it is known that many great civilizations, including perhaps our own, have fallen slowly or even suddenly. Why does this occur?

One way to understand the fall is that the people, as a whole, go into adrenal burnout and cannot sustain the intellectual, cultural and social traditions of the culture. Wise leaders and strong traditions become replaced with vulgar habits, lower moral standards and leaders who sway the people's passions, but do not appeal to their higher sensitivities.

Constant wars, as occurred in Europe, can also contribute to burnout. Toxic technology can also take its toll. The Roman Republic was famous for its lead water pipes, for example. We are famous for our medical drug cures and surgeries, both of which involve a lot of toxic chemicals. Industrialization has brought large amounts of many toxic metals into our homes, air, water and food.

Even oppressive political and economic systems can contribute in some nations. This is a problem with the socialist and fascist ideologies that spring up around the world. They repress the people and, as a

result, the people do not function well after a time.

Freedom, in contrast, tends to help people live better and function better. This was the goal of the founders of America. I hope we have not lost sight of the absolute value of freedom and liberty, as opposed to all other values such as diversity or environmentalism.

**Myth #20. Burnout only affects one generation at a time.** This is perhaps the most pernicious aspect of burnout. Children born to burned out parents will be born nutritionally weaker and thus more prone to adrenal fatigue themselves. Children today are going into burnout, as a result, at a younger and younger age. So the story of adrenal exhaustion cuts across generational lives. This was ably demonstrated by Dr. Weston Price, DDS, in his classic book ***Nutrition and Physical Degeneration***.

Melting pot nations like America have an advantage in this regard. New immigrants are often the more ambitious ones that are in better health and can help rejuvenate the population. Also, nations that emphasize freedom and individual rights allow people to devise better ways of coping and maintaining their health than those that are stuck in rigid prescribed social structures.

## **RECOVERY FROM ADRENAL BURNOUT**

Recovery from burnout is certainly possible. Nutritional balancing has helped thousands come out of burnout. However, be prepared to spend several years on a nutritional balancing program. This does not mean you cannot work or take care of your family during this time. However, lots of rest is critical and recovery still usually takes several years of effort. The following is an outline of the nutritional balancing approach for program for adrenal burnout:

1. A diet of mainly cooked vegetables and animal protein. Avoid all vegetarian, raw food and fasting regimens. For much more information about this diet, click on the [Slow Oxidizer Diet Plan](#).

2. Only distilled or spring water to drink – three or more quarts daily. Carbon filtered water is the next best, but if not as good because carbon does not remove most toxic metals or even all the chemicals from the water. Reverse osmosis water is cleaner, but does not hydrate the body nearly as well as the others above. Also, be sure to avoid alkaline water

systems, “drinking water” or tap water.

3. An improved lifestyle. Loads of rest is the single most important lifestyle change. For some other details, click on [The Healing Lifestyle](#) and many other articles on this website about lifestyle.

4. About 6 or 7 basic nutritional supplements. These must be targeted and individualized using a properly performed and properly interpreted hair mineral analysis. For more information, click on [Nutritional Balancing And Why I Use It](#).

5. A detoxification protocol is helpful, though perhaps not always needed. This involves the use of a near infrared sauna and perhaps coffee enemas or colonic irrigation. This is included with all nutritional balancing programs. For some general information about these procedures, click on [Detoxification Procedures](#).

6. A meditation-observation exercise that is extremely centering and grounding. Click on [Meditation](#) to learn more about this excellent and simple procedure.

7. Shifts in your attitudes and perspectives on life, when needed. Attitudes of forgiveness, letting go, positive attitudes, gratitude, spirituality or prayer can speed up healing greatly. Several articles on this website such as [Letting Go](#) and others discuss how important these can be for healing.

Addressing all these aspects is the way to assure success. The preceding are general suggestions only. If possible, work with someone on our list of recommended practitioners. These are the only people I can recommend. Others, no matter what their education or experience, often do not know how to correct adrenal burnout syndrome. You may also work with us by mail if you prefer. Click on [Find A Practitioner](#) for the list of approved practitioners.

**What about adrenal and other testing?** In general, we require only the hair mineral analysis, with repeated tests every six months for several years. Food allergy testing may be helpful, but usually not needed, in cases of severe food intolerances.

We do not require hormone, blood tests or other types of tests, although we are happy to review any tests you may have. However, we never discourage other testing when needed.

**What about bio-identical hormone replacement therapy?** Nutritional balancing can almost always rebuild the hormone system of

the body. All hormone replacement gets in the way of this task. Nutritional balancing, as a rule, does not require or recommend any hormones. They are all somewhat toxic. For more information, click on [Bio-identical Hormone Replacement](#).

**What about anti-depressants and other drug therapies for burnout?** We very rarely recommend any pharmaceutical or over-the-counter drug for any reason.

Exceptions include if one absolutely cannot sleep or perhaps, if one has a severe parasitic infection, perhaps. In almost all these cases, however, natural products such as colloidal silver and others work well at a lower cost and with far fewer side effects. However, I do not take people off prescribed medication. That is a matter between you and your prescribing doctor.

## **THE BLESSING OF BURNOUT**

Adrenal burnout can be the best thing that happens to a person. It is a wake up call. Often, some area of life is out of balance or alignment. Addressing burnout is often the starting point for a deeper exploration of self and of life at a deeper level. Most people live superficially. Correcting adrenal burnout often causes a person to begin to live at a much deeper level and to understand the body and mind from a more spiritual perspective as well.

This was the case for me, and for many patients I have worked with. I suffered from adrenal exhaustion for a number of years. As I began to understand the condition better, I made many changes in my diet, lifestyle and most critically, my thinking. I also forced myself to do coffee enemas, to walk every day, use a sauna, and to meditate daily, although I did not enjoy doing any these things, at first.

I let go of some family ties and other relationships that I discovered were toxic and harmful for me. Eventually, I also moved out of the polluted city, although the process was terrifying because I had very little energy or money to accomplish the move.

Perhaps most important was the need for more subtle changes in attitudes and mental tendencies. I realized how important it is to give up

all victim thinking and negative thinking. I had to let go of thinking of anyone else as a victim, either, although that may sound like a strange attitude. I have written about this in other articles on this website.

I also dwelled upon and developed the spiritual or real part of myself. This is an incredible benefit if you can make yourself do it. In the process, I had to leave behind the superficial life style that I, like most people, had lived most of my life.

These shifts have served me extremely well, as they have served thousands of others I have since worked with. Thus, I have learned it is wrong to think that adrenal burnout, or any serious condition, is just a curse to be “handled” as quickly as possible. If you act this way, you may miss the greatest blessing of your life.

Reference website: [http://www.drlwilson.com/articles/adrenal\\_burnout.htm](http://www.drlwilson.com/articles/adrenal_burnout.htm)