

Volume 4, Issue 4 April 2014

# **BLOOD PRESSURE**

#### TAKE CONTROL OF THE SLENT KLLER



High blood pressure, or hypertension, is sometimes called the silent killer because there are often no symptoms. That's why keeping track of blood pressure is one of the most important things a person can do to stay healthy, said doctors at Baylor College of Medicine.

Left untreated, hypertension, can cause organ damage over time, leading to heart attack, blindness, kidney failure or stroke, said Dr. Biykem Bozkurt, professor of medicine at BCM.

Some factors that are associated with hypertension are diabetes, family history of hypertension, being overweight, taking in too much sodium, drinking excessive alcohol and smoking. Generally a healthy

reading is 120/80, and hypertension diagnosis is made at 140/90. People considered prehypertensive generally have readings that fall between 120/80 and 140/90. Doctors always check blood pressure as part of appointments and there are also many locations where blood pressure machines are available for anyone to have their pressure checked. Bozkurt advises talking to a doctor to determine if your reading is at a healthy level rather than taking the machine's reading at face value.

"For a relatively healthy person not suffering from any other illnesses, only a few lifestyle changes like diet modifications and exercise may be needed," said Bozkurt.

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#### **IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

EMERGENCY NUMBERS	
EMERGENCY	911
Fire	911
Ambulance	
Round Rock Police (Non Emergency)	
Georgetown Police (Non Emergency)	512-390-3510
Travis County Animal Control	512-972-6060
Round Rock Animal Control	512-218-5500
Georgetown Animal Control	512-930-3592
SCHOOLS	
Round Rock ISD	
Teravista Elementary School	512-704-0500
Hopewell Middle School	512-464-5200
Stony Point High School	512-428-7000
Georgetown ISD	
Carver Elementary School	
Pickett Elementary School	
Tippit Middle School	512-943-5040
Georgetown High School	512-943-5100
UTILITIES	
Atmos Energy	1-888-286-6700
TXU Energy	1-800-818-6132
AT&T	
New Service	1-800-464-7928
Repair	1-800-246-8464
Billing	1-800-858-7928
Time Warner Cable	
Customer Service	
Repairs	512-485-5080
OTHER NUMBERS	
City of Round Rock	512-218-5400
Round Rock Community Library	512-218-7000
Round Rock Parks and Recreation	512-218-5540
City of Georgetown	
Georgetown Public Library	512-930-3551
Georgetown Municipal Airport	512-930-3666
Georgetown Parks and Recreation	
Teravista Golf and Ranch House	
Teravista Residents Club	512-310-7421
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# **Empty Nest Chance To Chase Forgotten Dreams**

Middle age woes are hard enough to deal with, but throw in empty nest syndrome and it is a recipe for potential depression. Psychologists at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston say not to look at it as an ending, but as the beginning of a new stage in life with more time to travel, develop new hobbies, rediscover forgotten dreams and get to know your spouse all over again.

"Parents have channeled all of their energy into their children for so long they may not know what to do with their time once they leave," said Dr. James Bray, associate professor of family and community medicine at BCM.

Empty nest syndrome often leads to divorce, but parents should assume that leaving your spouse will make the unhappiness go away.

"Marriage takes time and energy, so make the effort to get reacquainted," Bray said.

Talk with friends to reevaluate goals and take note of some lifelong dreams you haven't had time to accomplish, said Bray. There may be more time to take dance classes, travel, exercise or go back to college to retool skills. The empty nest transition usually lasts six months to a year, depending on how well parents can adjust to their newly found freedom.

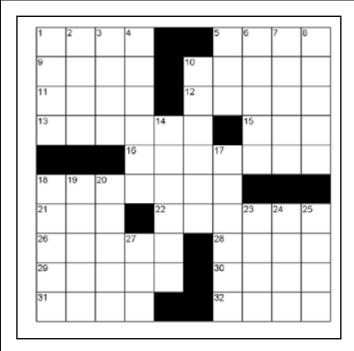




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# CROSSWORD PUZZLE



#### **ACROSS**

1. Grabs

5. Capital of Western Samoa

9. Healing plant

10. Canned chili brand

11. Baby powder

12. Howdy

13. Mexican food brand

15. Billion years

16. Smash

18. In abundance

21. Scarf

22. Prejudice 26. Living

28. National capital

29. Fathers

30. Margarine

31. Entertainer

32. Nightly tv show

**DOWN** 

1. North Atlantic Treaty

Organization

2. Winged

3. Fastening device

4. What the confederates tried to do

5. Dined

6. Whiter

7. Ice house

8. Hurting

10. Brand of soda

14. Literature

17. Baron

18. Embarrass

19. Crippling disease

20. Dens

23. Island

24. Killed

25. Cow noises

27. Animal doctor

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## Sugar, Heart & Life

A program called Sugar, Heart and Life: A Guide to Living with Diabetes is available for people dealing with the disease. The interactive and fun program developed by Baylor College of Medicine's department of family and community medicine offers information on how individuals with type 2 diabetes can manage their diabetes. The SHL program includes recipes, practical tips and games on diet, exercise, and medication. The program allows users to follow a year in the life of the Gonzalez family as they learn more about managing diabetes and help them make decisions that will keep their family healthy.

All diabetes management recommendations contained in this program are consistent with clinical practice recommendations of the American Diabetes Association and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. Recipe Box was adapted from heart healthy recipes from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

Sugar, Heart and Life can be found at www.bcm.edu/shl.

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