

Article published on March 28th 2012 | Alternative Medicine

Aging is an inevitable and unavoidable phenomenon in every person's life. Though we all like to look fresh and young forever, aging will tiptoe in to our lives with time. We have to take this change sportingly or else it will be a cause of depression for us. In other words, time will play its menacing role on us and there is no respite from this. But for some people aging takes place prematurely and this can bring much distress in to their lives. The factors triggering premature aging include excessive sun exposure (photo-aging), dry skin, poor sleep, alcohol abuse, tobacco abuse, stress, poor nutrition, inactivity, allergies, exposure to toxic chemicals and metallic substances, Werner's syndrome (a genetic disorder), excessive exposure to cold weather etc. Aging includes the following signs and symptoms:

- 1. Flagging energy level
- 2. Appearance of fine lines and wrinkles on skin
- 3. Appearance of brown spots
- 4. Looseness of skin due to loss of lean muscle tissue
- 5. Weakening of eyesight
- 6. Weakening of hearing power
- 7. Weakening of memory
- 8. Experiencing light sleep
- 9. Hair turning white gradually
- 10. Thinning of hair
- 11. Abdominal obesity
- 12. Decreasing muscle strength
- 13. Decreasing bone density
- 14. Joint instability and inflammation.

Above I have listed the predominant signs of aging. There are numerous other signs and symptoms. Aging cannot be arrested but the aging process can be slowed down or it can come gracefully if you are a bit careful. Here are few tips on that.

Ways to prevent aging:

- 1. Try to get enough sleep. Sleep at least for 7 hours a day.
- 2. Do not raise your eyebrows often. This will prevent forehead lines from appearing.

- 3. Use moisturizers to keep your skin soft, plump and well hydrated. This will reduce the aging pace.
- 4. Avoid consuming sugary food, for sugar accelerates the aging process.
- 5. Avoid processed meat or dairy products, for they would age fast.
- 6. Include lots of citrus fruits, nuts, whole grains, legumes and lentils in diet. This will prevent aging.
- 7. Consume vegetables rich in antioxidants. This will compensate the oxidative cellular damage which is a predominant cause of aging.
- 8. Curb your calorie intake. This will prevent you from getting pot bellied.
- 9. Try to remain happy and appreciate the joy that comes your way.
- 10. Relieve yourself of stress through meditation and yoga.
- 11. Consume fishes rich in Omega-3 fatty acids. This will slow down the aging of your skin.
- 12. Stay away from smoking and alcohol intake.
- 13. Sun exposure promotes aging. So use sunscreen and sunglasses when you are out in the sun.
- 14. Practice mental exercises like solving riddles, crossword puzzles etc. This will improve your memory.
- 15. Use coconut oil for cooking. This is a good anti-aging measure.
- 16. Practice cardio and muscle strengthening exercises to restrict the age-related loss of lean muscle mass.

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Article Keywords:

prevent aging, how to prevent aging, prevent aging naturally, ways to prevent aging, aging sign and symptoms

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