

What's your Health IQ? Take this test to find out!

According to a recent article in the *Los Angeles Times*, American adults get a "D" in science; 22% confuse astronomy and astrology! On a general science knowledge quiz consisting of 12 questions, the test-takers answered 7.9 correctly, on average. That's a score of 66%. Only 6% answered all 12 questions correctly.

Similarly, lack of health literacy is also a huge problem among Americans. We are continually bombarded with often-contradictory health information. U.S. patients are confronted with myriad treatment options they are ill-equipped to properly choose among. Urban legend, aggressive direct-to-consumer advertising, and dumbed-down media stories add to the confusion.

The mission of *Intelligent Medicine* is to enhance your health IQ. Let's start with this simple quiz to see if you get a "Pass":

1. Documented benefits of exercise include all of these except:
 - a. Reduced risk of cognitive decline
 - b. Improved survival from many types of cancer
 - c. Better sexual performance
 - d. Protection from HIV infection
 - e. All are correct
2. Vitamin D has been shown to reduce the risk of all except:
 - a. Multiple sclerosis
 - b. Colon cancer
 - c. Influenza
 - d. Melanoma
 - e. All are correct
3. A natural way to reduce the risk of kidney stones is to:
 - a. Drink green tea
 - b. Do hot yoga
 - c. Drink lemon juice
 - d. Drink beer
 - e. None of the above
4. According to the "Hygiene Hypothesis," you should:
 - a. Use Listerine mouthwash daily to prevent mouth infections
 - b. Clean household surfaces frequently with disinfectant
 - c. Allow children to play in the dirt
 - d. Keep up with regularly-scheduled vaccinations
 - e. All of the above
5. All of the following are true about mammograms except:
 - a. There's a general consensus among health professionals that routine

- screening mammograms save lives
- b. Mammograms can miss some cancers
 - c. Cumulative radiation exposure from mammograms increases a woman's lifetime risk of breast cancer
 - d. After a certain age, it's recommended that it's OK for older women to stop getting routine screening mammograms
 - e. All are correct
6. The bacterial composition of your "microbiome" impacts all except:
- a. Your weight
 - b. Your risk of developing diabetes
 - c. Your mood
 - d. Your risk of certain cancers
 - e. All are correct
7. Which of the following is an example of "epigenetics":
- a. The high risk of developing breast cancer in woman with the BrCa gene
 - b. The ability of persons predisposed to diabetes and weight gain to stay healthy with diet and exercise
 - c. Families in which most males die early of heart disease
 - d. The claim that diet and supplements can't help autistic children since it's pretty much "hardwired" from birth
 - e. None of the above
8. Examples of factors that promote aging and degenerative disease include all of the above except
- a. Free radicals
 - b. Advanced Glycation Endproducts (AGEs)
 - c. Nitric oxide
 - d. Dietary trans-fats
 - e. All are correct
9. Sleep deprivation can result in all of the following except:
- a. Decreased testosterone levels
 - b. Insulin resistance
 - c. Weight gain
 - d. Attention Deficit Disorder
 - e. All are correct
10. Among Americans over 65, the incidence of polypharmacy (the simultaneous use of more than 5 medications, some of which may be unnecessary) is greater than:
- a. 10%
 - b. 25%
 - c. 40%
 - d. 50%
 - e. 60%

1. *D – There is no evidence that exercise confers protection against HIV*
2. *E – Vitamin protects against all of the above*
3. *C – Lemon juice, because of its citric acid content, reduces the risk of calcium oxalate stones*
4. *C – Exposure to germs in childhood “trains” the immune system to respond normally to pathogens and reduces the likelihood of allergic and autoimmune disorders*
5. *A – While most health organizations continue to recommend routine screening mammograms, considerable doubt has been raised over the survival benefits they may confer*
6. *E – All are affected by the bacterial composition of the microbiome*
7. *B – The ability of individuals to overcome genetic predisposition to diabetes and overweight is an example of epigenetic influence on the expression of heredity*
8. *C – Nitric oxide improves endothelial function which protects against circulatory disorders*
9. *E – All have been found to be associated with sleep deprivation*
10. *D – Over 50% of Americans over 65 are using five or more medications (polypharmacy)*

If you answered all these questions correctly, or even nine out of ten, congratulations, you are a true paragon of *Intelligent Medicine*! If you got seven or eight right, you're still doing better than average. If you scored 60% or less, your health literacy needs a boost. Try boning up on medical and nutritional facts by listening to our *Intelligent Medicine* podcasts and following the articles here at DrHoffman.com—you're sure to ace the test when we repeat it sometime next year!