# Massage: More than a "feel good" experience



Many people like getting a massage. It may be a head, neck and back massage in a chair. Or it can be a full-body treatment on a massage table.

Any kind of massage gives you a "time out." And it can help in other ways, too.

## Can you guess the physical benefits?

Which 7 items below are physical benefits of massage<sup>1</sup>? (Answers are at end of article)

- 1. Reducing low back pain
- 2. Fighting tooth decay
- 3. Boosting your immune system
- 4. Stretching your muscles
- 5. Losing twenty pounds
- 6. Increasing flexibility
- 7. Expanding range of motion
- 8. Giving you better breath
- 9. Preventing stress headaches
- 10. Reducing problems after surgery

## Massage and mental wellbeing

Massage can't make all your stresses go away. But body therapies can help you manage and cope.

Which 7 items below are ways that massage can help you feel better mentally and emotionally ? (Answers are at end of article)

- 1. Helping relieve depression
- 2. Calming anxieties
- 3. Helping remind you to call your parents
- 4. Releasing endorphins the body's natural painkillers
- 5. Enhancing sleep quality
- 6. Increasing your desire to make new friends
- 7. Promoting greater energy
- 8. Giving you better dreams at night
- 9. Increasing circulation
- 10. Helping you focus and think more clearly

### Take good care of yourself

Getting a massage is a great form of self-nurturing. Taking care of your body is one aspect of valuing your health and yourself. You can talk with your doctor to see if massage could be a part of your wellbeing program.

Answers to physical benefits quiz: Incorrect answers are #2, 5, 8. The rest are all correct. Answers to mental wellbeing quiz: Incorrect answers are #3, 6, 8. The rest are all correct.

<sup>1</sup>Massage: More than a "feel good" experience. Accessed May 2017.

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