



# Soothing Asthma Anxiety

by NEWLIFEOUTLOOK TEAM

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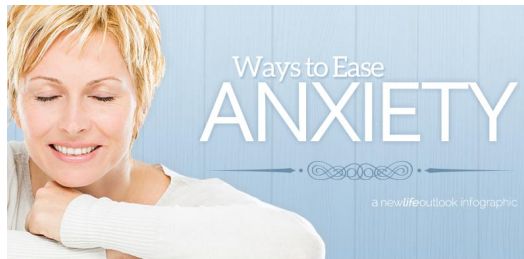
## Tips for Easing Anxiety

Many chronic illness sufferers experience anxiety, whether it's a pre-existing condition or it developed after diagnosis. It's quite common for anxiety to develop due to a chronic illness, and it can wreak havoc on your health.

In the case of asthma, it's common for anxiety to develop as a result of the fear of having an asthma attack. That fear and anxiety can even trigger an attack, which then contributes to anxiety.

When dealing with anxiety, especially when in conjunction with asthma, it is important to get control over your anxiety so it can't overwhelm you and cause an attack.

There are simple methods you can try at home to help stop anxiety in its tracks, before it makes your asthma worse. The key is to remember to relax, breathe, and stop your racing thoughts.



# Ways to Ease ANXIETY

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## WHAT IS ANXIETY?

Anxiety is a normal feeling of uneasiness, worry and apprehension that everyone experiences from time to time. If anxiety gets in the way of your day-to-day life, it becomes a disorder.

### Anxiety Disorders Include:<sup>i</sup>

- ❖ Generalized Anxiety Disorder
- ❖ Social Anxiety Disorder
- ❖ Panic Disorder
- ❖ Phobias
- ❖ Agoraphobia
- ❖ Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD)
- ❖ Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)



## PRACTICE DEEP BREATHING

Deep breathing techniques will soothe your body and help ease feelings of anxiety in a few short minutes.<sup>ii</sup>

## LAUGH

Laughter feels good and calms the mind, but it also increases the amount of oxygen we take in (much like deep breathing).<sup>iii</sup>



## TRY SOME NATURAL REMEDIES

Chamomile, lemon balm, lavender, passionflower and valerian may be helpful for anxiety.<sup>iv</sup>

## MEDITATE

Meditation can help quiet the mind of racing thoughts that accompany anxiety. With more practice, it can be a great tool to help manage other symptoms, too.<sup>v</sup>



## EXERCISE

On top of the countless physical and mental benefits of exercise, the endorphins released during physical activity can reduce stress greatly.<sup>vi</sup>

## YOGA

Many kinds of yoga have been shown to help with anxiety and depression by modifying your body's stress response.<sup>vii</sup>



Next time you feel your anxiety creeping up,  
remember to take back control and work to ease your symptoms.  
**Your body and mind will thank you!**

## RESOURCES

- <sup>i</sup> <http://www.wadaa.org/understanding-anxiety>
- <sup>ii</sup> <http://www.calmclinic.com/anxiety/treatment/breathing-exercises>
- <sup>iii</sup> <http://www.healthypiece.com/blogs/anxiety-schmanxiety/2014/12/laughter-can-chase-away-anxiety/>
- <sup>iv</sup> <http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/generalized-anxiety-disorder/expert-answers/herbal-treatment-for-anxiety/faq-20067345>
- <sup>v</sup> <http://www.chopra.com/ccd/how-meditation-can-help-anxiety>
- <sup>vi</sup> <http://www.wadaa.org/living-with-anxiety/managing-anxiety/exercise-stress-and-anxiety>
- <sup>vii</sup> <http://www.health.harvard.edu/mind-and-mood/yoga-for-anxiety-and-depression>



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