Cycle back to sleep

On Your Mark Performance Center gets you on the road to restful nights

t's 3 a.m. and your eyes fly open for no apparent reason. The next two hours are spent tossing and turning, worrying about all you have to do in the day ahead as you stare at the glowing clock. Finally, you drift back to sleep only to awaken exhausted just 15 minutes later to the blare of your cell phone alarm. Sound familiar?

If so, you're certainly not alone. Approximately one-third of all adults experience some form of insufficient sleep syndrome, which can vary from restless sleep to complete wakefulness. The incidence of sleep disorders jumps with maturity, from 5 percent of people ages 30 to 50, to nearly 30 percent of those over 50. Women are nearly twice as likely to lose sleep compared to men.

In many cases, the change from a sedentary to a more physically active lifestyle is all that is needed to put one

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back on the road to improved sleep patterns. Regular exposure to natural sunlight — particularly in the late afternoon – is an important part of healthy sleep hygiene. Moderate aerobic exercise like outdoor cycling performed at least four hours before bedtime can significantly impact a return to healthy sleep habits.

"What we like to do is get someone to recognize a pattern. Begin by riding your bike one time per week for three weeks

straight," explains Matt Goforth of the On Your Mark Performance Center Team.

'You must commit. Once you can consistently do this, add a second day. Now you ride your bike twice per week, and do this



Matt Goforth and Julie Goforth, owners of On Your Mark Performance Center, recommend that for a restful sleep, slowly work your way up to riding your bike in the afternoons, at least three times a

for three weeks consecutively. Way to go! Next step is three rides per week for three weeks," states Matt.

"It's like building blocks starting with the foundation, adding walls, then the roof. We've seen lots of success using this plan," adds Julie Goforth of OYM.

Cycling minimizes the excessive build-up of lactic acid that may lead to nighttime leg pain. It reduces negative thoughts and emotions through the release of endorphins and facilitates the brain to achieve a deeper level of Stage Four sleep. The vigorous use of the leg muscles to the point of fatigue achieved on a moderately paced, late-afternoon ride has almost a tranquilizer-type effect as long as the ride does not take place too close to bedtime. The significant rise in body temperature experienced while cycling followed by the compensatory drop a few hours later makes it easier to fall asleep and stay asleep.

Visit On Your Mark Performance Center today and talk to one of the team members about beginning a new cycling program or enhancing your existing one to aid with healthy sleep restoration. They'll have you pedaling your way to a well rested, healthier you in no time. ■

Overcoming the symptoms of eyestrain

evestrain?

Answer: In our practice this is a common complaint I hear on a daily basis. Some symptoms of eyestrain are dry eyes, sore tired burning or itchy eyes, watery eyes, blurred or double vision, and increased most common causes of evestrain is using your computer for long periods

Dr. Monroe Benaim **Board Certified**

Ophthalmologist FLORIDA EYE GROUP (561) 747-7777 www.FloridaEyeGroup.com of time. Sometimes an underlying eye problem such as eye muscle imbalance or uncorrected vision may be the cause of eyestrain. We often prescribe eyeglass prescriptions spe-

cifically calculated to help with the computer distance, which is unlike the prescription for reading a book. Other causes of evestrain include

reading for extended periods of time, exposure to bright light or glare, straining to see in very

uestion: What can I do for dim light, and driving a vehicle for long periods of time. In order to prevent eyestrain, I highly recommend taking eye breaks throughout the day. We refer to this as the 20/20/20 rule. Every 20 minutes, take your eyes off the computer or reading and look at something 20 feet away for at least 20 seconds. Try sensitivity to light. The medical term to stand up and move around at least for for eyestrain is asthenopia. One of the an hour or so, and blink often to refresh your eyes. Consider using lubricating eye drops; don't use drops that remove the redness, as they may worsen your systems. I recommend a complete eye examination to determine the underlying causes of your eyestrain. Perhaps it will be as simple as an eyeglass prescription change or trying some of the above hints to relieve your eyestrain. ■

> – Dr. Monroe Benaim is an Ophthalmologist board certified by both the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the American College of Eye Surgeons. He has lived in Jupiter for o 20 vears. Dr. Benaim is a graduate of The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.), and he completed his Eye Surgery training at the University of Texas/ Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas. Dr. Benaim is sincerely committed to providing patients with the highest level of vision and healthcare possible.

