

“Carrying an Anxious Mood & An Ostomy Bag”



**By Floribeth Arrautt, MSW, LCSW
Licensed Clinical Social
Worker/Psychotherapist
Digestive Health Department
farrautt@med.miami.edu**



OSTOMY 101



Provided by United Ostomy Associations of America

WHAT IS AN OSTOMY?



OSTOMIES ARE PROSTHETICS

AN OSTOMY causes a change in the way urine or stool exits the body as a result of a surgical procedure. Bodily waste is rerouted from its usual path because of malfunctioning parts of the urinary or digestive system. They can be temporary or permanent.

A STOMA is the opening created by ostomy surgery. It is located on the abdomen and is dark pink in color. For most ostomies, a pouch is worn over the stoma to collect stool or urine. For some people it is possible to have a continent diversion, which is a procedure that avoids having to wear a pouch, as an alternative to a conventional ostomy.



Persons living with an ostomy in the U.S.

DID YOU KNOW...?

You'd likely never know if you met a person with an ostomy.

Babies, kids and adults have ostomies.



Approximately **100,000** ostomy surgeries are performed annually in the United States.



People with ostomies live full & meaningful lives that include swimming, working, playing sports & having relationships.

OSTOMIES SAVE LIVES.

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WHY DOES A PERSON NEED OR CHOOSE AN OSTOMY?



COMMON REASONS FOR A COLOSTOMY:

- Diverticulitis causing rupture
- Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- Birth Defects
- Cancers
- Bowel obstruction
- Injury

COMMON REASONS FOR AN ILEOSTOMY:

- Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- Familial adenomatous polyposis
- Birth Defects
- Cancers

COMMON REASONS FOR A UROSTOMY:

- Cancer (particularly of the bladder)
- Birth defects
- Bladder diseases or injuries

OSTOMY.ORG
Advocates for a Positive Change

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES?



A colostomy diverts stool from the colon.



An ileostomy diverts stool from the small intestines.



A urostomy diverts urine when the bladder has been removed or bypassed.

Body Image Issues

Study March 2016 Journal of Disability and Rehabilitation

- Patients who had an ostomy at 3, 9, 15 months after the surgery were interviewed.
- They often experience a negative change in their body image.
- It tends to diminish over time.
- Researchers found that by gaining **familiarity** & **perceived control** over their stoma, patients regain a sense of being fully connected to their bodies.
- Less fearful.



Mindfulness & Patients with Stomas



- Fear, anxiety, sadness, anger = normal feelings
- Sense of loss of control, stress of stoma care
- Changes in body image & self-concept
- Mindfulness can enable those patients to make the necessary adjustments.
- Mindfulness has been demonstrated to be **effective** in dealing with clinical & psychologic problems.
- Living with an ostomy by **learning to face discomfort, pain, and obstacles = 1 opportunity to enrich & enhance life.**

How psychological interventions help?

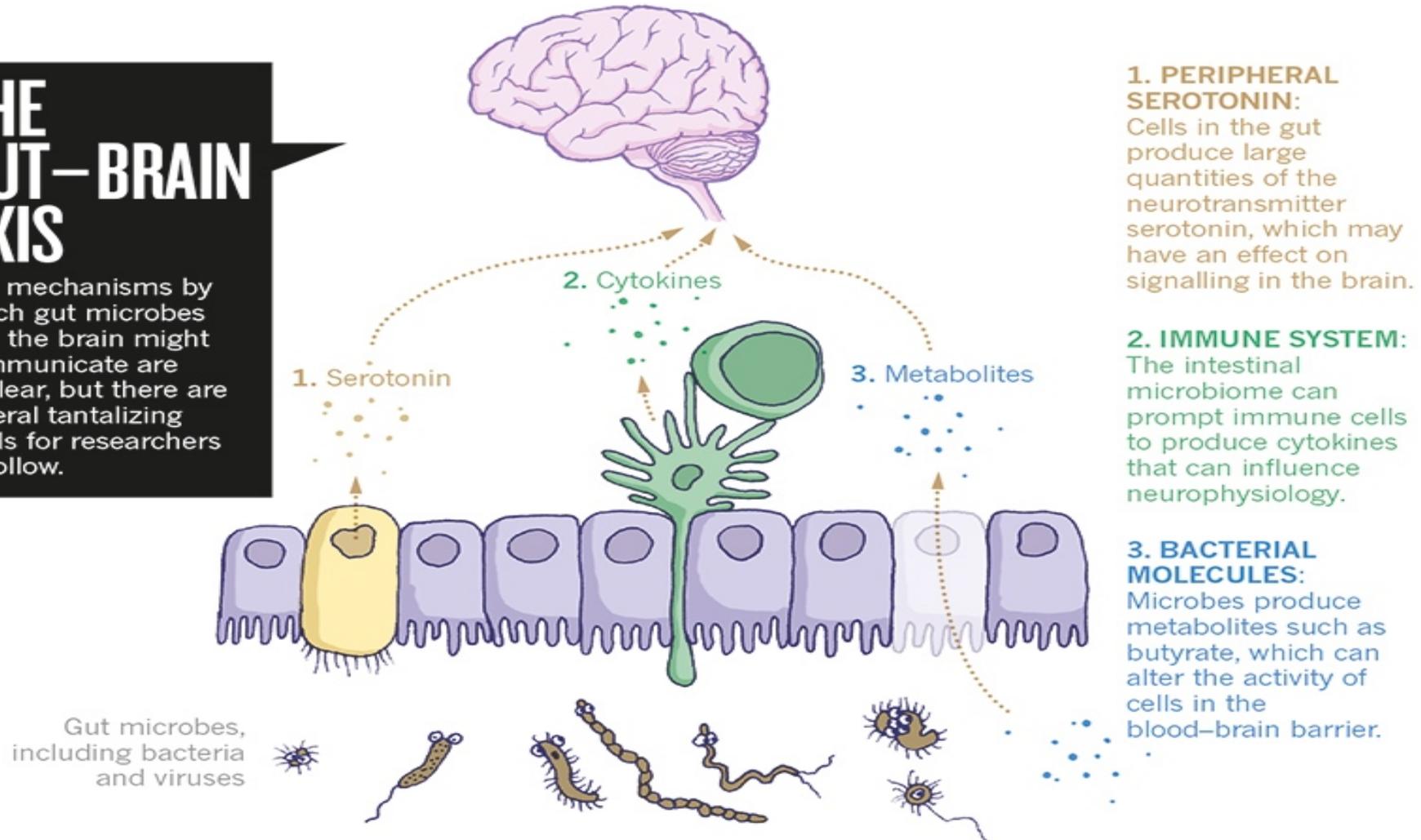
- **CBT and mindfulness reduce arousal** of the autonomic nervous system.
- **Decrease** the stress-response.
- **Reduces inflammation.**
- This physiologic effect is due to the “**brain-gut axis**”: **TNF-alpha**, a pro inflammatory cytokine.



Brain-Gut Connection

THE GUT–BRAIN AXIS

The mechanisms by which gut microbes and the brain might communicate are unclear, but there are several tantalizing leads for researchers to follow.



Mindfulness Therapy

- “Mindfulness means paying attention, on purpose, in the present moment and nonjudgmentally, moment to moment”.
- John Kabat-Zinn (JKZ), creator of Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) & founder of the Stress Reduction Clinic & the Center for Mindfulness in Medicine, Health Care, and Society at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

Benefits of Practicing Mindfulness

- Greater energy
- Joy
- Tranquility
- Concentration
- Equanimity = bringing calm
- Wisdom
- Seeing clearly what's happening in the present moment



Example

- A new ostomate... time needed for stomal care = opportunity to practice being mindful.
- While removing, emptying, irrigating, cleaning, or reattaching the pouch =
- The person can focus on the skills of mindfulness.





Mindfulness Training

- It is an effective intervention in relieving chronic pain, reducing anxiety.
- 33 % and 50 % after a 10 week period of intervention in 65 % of a group of patients who had not had improvement with traditional medical care.
- 45 min period of meditation 6 days a week for an 8 week period.

How mindful are you?

Count how many F's are present in the following sentence:

“FINAL FOLIOS SEEM TO RESULT FROM YEARS OF DUTIFUL STUDY OF TEXTS ALONG WITH YEARS OF SCIENTIFIC EXPERIENCE.”

- Much information is lost if you are not “fully present.”

“Foundation Pillars” or 7 Attitudes

1. Non-judging
2. Patience
3. Beginner’s Mind
4. Trust
5. Non-Striving
6. Acceptance
7. Letting Go



Breathe In & Out



Phrases to use during mindfulness meditation

1. Breathing in, I am aware of my stoma. Breathing out, I am calm.
2. Breathing in, I hear gurgling sounds. Breathing out, I smile to my stoma.
3. Breathing in, I touch my stoma. Breathing out, I smile to my stoma.
4. Breathing in, I know that my stoma is functioning well. Breathing out, I vow to take good care of my stoma.
5. Breathing in, I am aware of my stoma. Breathing out, I vow to properly provide the best nutrients.

Focusing on what is right (rather than concentrating on the negatives).

Practicing these phrases helps change the patient's perception to one of appreciation for what is good and what is working.





Foundations of Mindfulness

- **I. Body:** What sensations am I experiencing? Light, color, sound, noise, movement, trembling, itching, pressure, heaviness, and movement. Hearing a noise during meditation and labeling the sensation as **noise**.
- **II. Feelings:** What feelings am I experiencing? I am feeling joy, sad, fearful, or angry. Feelings that are painful we want to avoid, and feelings of pleasure be get stuck on.
- **III. Thoughts and consciousness:** What mental states or thoughts am I experiencing? I am concentrated, worrying, judging, or comparing. Thoughts are very often fueled by emotions.
- **IV. Awareness of truths of experience:** What truths have I become aware of? Nothing lasts and attachment causes suffering. By witnessing or watching, people become aware of the underlying themes of thoughts, feelings, and sensations.

Mindfulness Is...



- **Not** a set of techniques to be learned to escape unpleasant feelings.
- An **approach** to life that can help you respond more skillfully.
- Process of becoming more aware & accepting towards all your experiences (including unpleasant ones).
- Takes ongoing practice & commitment.
- If you notice your attention has wandered, try to accept that this is how things are right now.
- Have patience with yourself.

Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR)

- 1. Breathing:** Practice slow controlled breathing when feeling anxious, angry.
- 2. Exercise:** Physical activity stimulates the production of endorphins (40 minutes daily).
- 3. Avoid asking “what if”:** Try to accept that some questions simply won't have an answer.
- 4. Focus on positives:** Keep a list of positives, so you can immediately shift your attention towards them when your thoughts are negative.
- 5. Reject negative self-talk:** Identifying and acknowledging any negative thoughts about yourself as merely thoughts and **not facts**, will help release you into a state of calm.



Resources

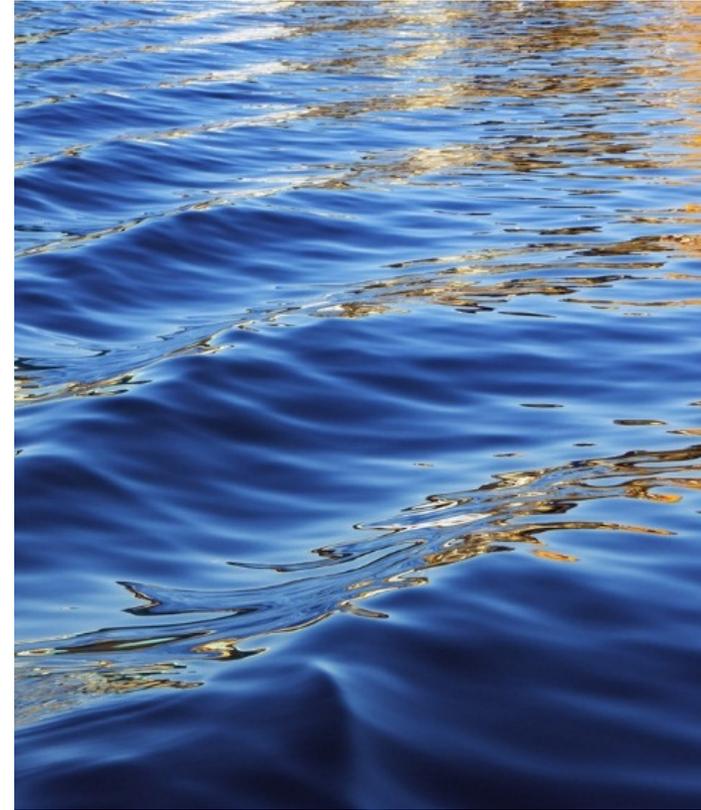
- 10 Minute Mindful Breathing Meditation
www.ndsu.edu/fileadmin/counseling/10Minute_Mindful_Breathing_Meditation.m4a
- Short Calm Abiding Meditation With Guided Body Relaxation
www.ndsu.edu/fileadmin/counseling/Meditation2VeryShortAmplify.mp3
- Insight Timer App
- Oak Meditation and Breathing App
- Koru Mindfulness
- Mindfulness App
- Simple Habits App
- Calming Your Anxious Mind, by Jeffrey Brantley, MD (2nd Edition, ew Harbinger Publications, 2007).
- The Mindful Way Through Anxiety, by Susan M. Orsillo and Lizabeth Roemer (Guilford Press, 2009).

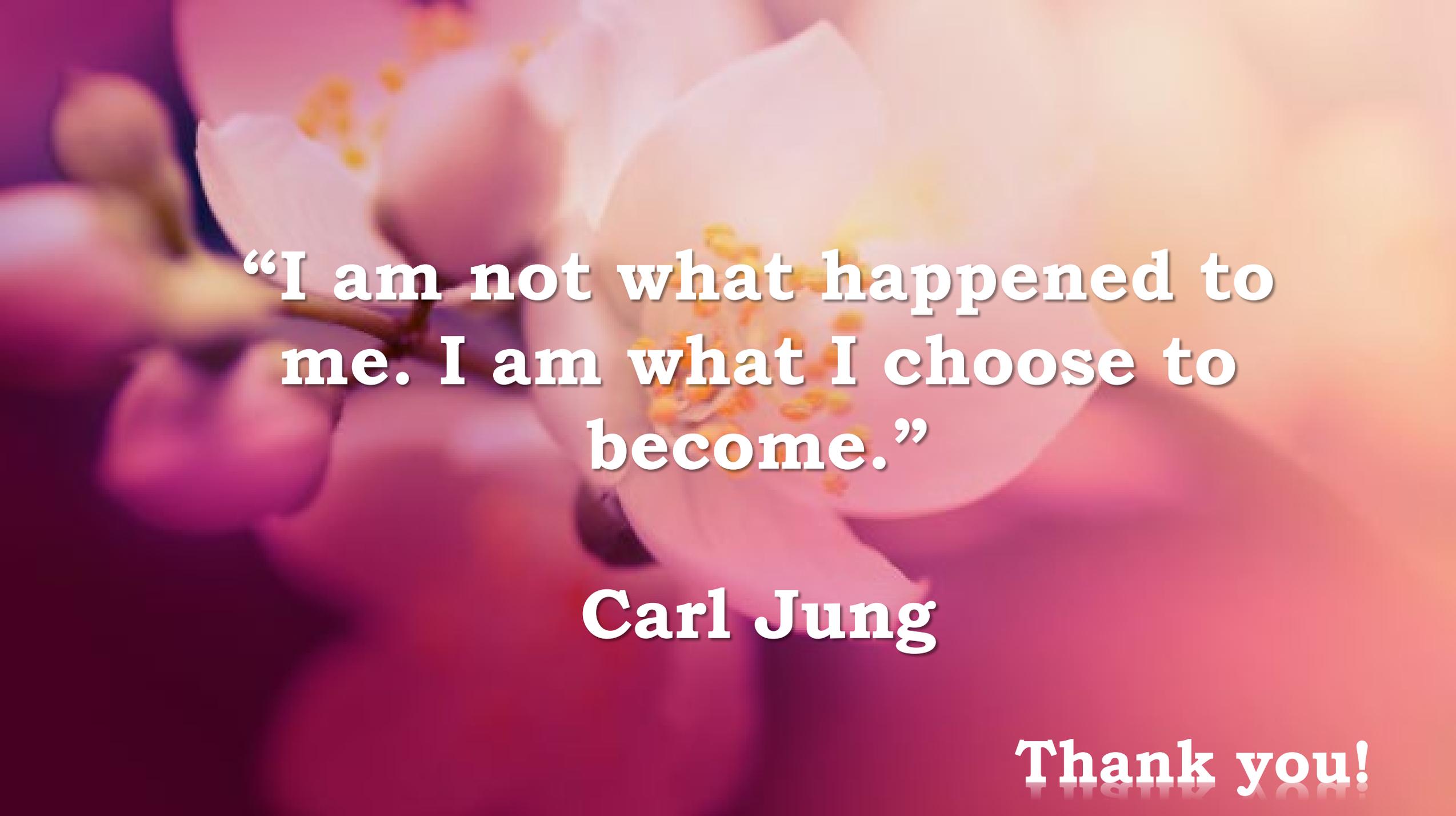
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Recommendations

- Be patient
- Communicate
- Educate yourself
- Keep busy
- Journal of positive affirmations
- Practice mindfulness exercises daily
- Breathing exercises
- By gaining familiarity & control over the stoma, you can regain a sense of being fully connected to your body.





**“I am not what happened to
me. I am what I choose to
become.”**

Carl Jung

Thank you!