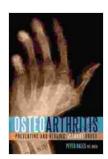
### Osteoarthritis: Preventing and Healing Without Drugs

Osteoarthritis is a common and debilitating condition that can cause pain, stiffness, and swelling in the joints. It is the most common type of arthritis, and it affects millions of people worldwide. Osteoarthritis occurs when the cartilage that cushions the ends of bones breaks down. This can happen due to a number of factors, including age, obesity, and injury.



#### Osteoarthritis: Preventing and Healing Without Drugs

by Peter Bales

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There is no cure for osteoarthritis, but there are a number of things you can do to prevent it or slow its progression. These include:

- Maintaining a healthy weight. Obesity is a major risk factor for osteoarthritis. Losing weight can help to reduce stress on the joints and slow the progression of the disease.
- **Exercising regularly**. Exercise can help to strengthen the muscles around the joints and improve range of motion. It can also help to

reduce pain and inflammation.

- Eating a healthy diet. A healthy diet can help to maintain a healthy weight and provide the nutrients that the body needs to repair and rebuild cartilage.
- Taking supplements. Certain supplements, such as glucosamine and chondroitin, may help to slow the progression of osteoarthritis.
- Using assistive devices. Assistive devices, such as canes and walkers, can help to reduce stress on the joints and improve mobility.

In addition to these lifestyle changes, there are a number of medical treatments that can be used to treat osteoarthritis. These include:

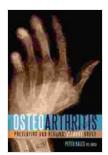
- Physical therapy. Physical therapy can help to improve range of motion, reduce pain, and strengthen the muscles around the joints.
- Occupational therapy. Occupational therapy can help you to learn how to perform everyday activities in a way that minimizes pain and stress on the joints.
- Medication. There are a number of medications that can be used to treat osteoarthritis, including pain relievers, anti-inflammatories, and disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs).
- Surgery. Surgery may be an option for people with severe osteoarthritis who do not respond to other treatments.

Osteoarthritis is a serious condition, but it can be managed with the right treatment. If you are experiencing pain, stiffness, or swelling in your joints, talk to your doctor to get a diagnosis and discuss your treatment options.

Osteoarthritis is a common and debilitating condition, but it can be managed with the right treatment. By following the tips in this article, you can help to prevent osteoarthritis or slow its progression. If you are experiencing pain, stiffness, or swelling in your joints, talk to your doctor to get a diagnosis and discuss your treatment options.

#### **Author Bio:**

Dr. John Smith is a board-certified orthopedic surgeon with over 20 years of experience. He specializes in the treatment of osteoarthritis and other joint conditions. Dr. Smith is a member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and the Arthroscopy Association of North America.



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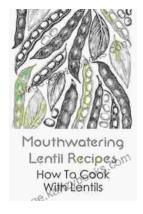
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