Questionnaire for Hormone Balance
From The Hormone Cure by Sara Gottfried, MD

For a free follow-up session to talk about your results, contact me at www.JulieAFischer.co/Contact-Julie/

Part A - Do you have or have you experienced in the past six months...

☐ A feeling you’re constantly racing from one task to the next?
☐ Feeling wired yet tired?
☐ A struggle calming down before bedtime, or a second wind that keeps you up late?
☐ Difficulty falling asleep or disrupted sleep?
☐ A feeling of anxiety or nervousness—can’t stop worrying about things beyond your control?
☐ A quickness to feel anger or rage—frequent screaming or yelling?
☐ Memory lapses or feeling distracted, especially under duress?
☐ Sugar cravings (you need “a little something” after each meal, usually of the chocolate variety)?
☐ Increased abdominal circumference, greater than 35 inches (the dreaded abdominal fat, or muffin top—not bloating)?
☐ Skin conditions such as eczema or thin skin (sometimes physiologically and psychologically)?
☐ Bone loss (perhaps your doctor uses scarier terms, such as osteopenia or osteoporosis)?
☐ High blood pressure or rapid heartbeat (unrelated to those cute red shoes in the store window)?
☐ High blood sugar (maybe your clinician has mentioned the words prediabetes or even diabetes or insulin resistance)? or Shakiness between meals, also known as blood sugar instability?
☐ Indigestion, ulcers, or GERD (gastroesophageal reflux disease)?
☐ More difficulty recovering from physical injury than in the past?
☐ Unexplained pink to purple stretch marks on your belly or back?
☐ Irregular menstrual cycles?
☐ Decreased fertility?

Total Part A ________

Results
Part A: High Cortisol

This is by far the most common hormone imbalance affecting modern women.

Five or more of these symptoms: Red alert! Chances are that you are high in cortisol.

Three or four: You may need to address this hormone imbalance.

Fewer than three or unsure: Dr. Gottfried recommends testing – through your doctor or self test at home
Part B

Do you have or have you experienced in the past six months...

- Fatigue or burnout (you use caffeine to bolster your energy, or fall asleep while reading or watching a movie)?
- Loss of stamina, particularly in the afternoon, from two to five?
- An atypical addiction to a negative point of view?
- Crying jags for no particular reason?
- Decreased problem-solving ability?
- Feeling stressed most of the time (everything seems harder than before, and you have trouble coping)? or Decreased stress tolerance?
- Insomnia or difficulty staying asleep, especially between one and four in the morning?
- Low blood pressure (not always a good thing, since your blood pressure determines the correct amount of oxygen to send through your body, especially into your brain)?
- Postural hypotension (you stand up from lying down and feel dizzy)?
- Difficulty fighting infection (you catch every virus you meet, particularly respiratory)? Difficulty recovering from illness or surgery or healing wounds?
- Asthma? Bronchitis? Chronic cough? allergies?
- Low or unstable blood sugar?
- Salt cravings?
- Excess sweating?
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea? Or loose stool alternating with constipation?
- Muscle weakness, especially around the knee? Muscle or joint pain?
- Hemorrhoids or varicose veins?
- Your blood seems to pool easily, or your skin bruises easily?
- A thyroid problem that’s been treated, you feel better, and suddenly you feel palpitations or have rapid or irregular heartbeats (a sign of a low cortisol/low thyroid combo)?

Total Part B ________

Results

Part B: Low Cortisol

Remember, you can have both high and low cortisol—even on the same day, within a twenty-four-hour period. Five or more symptoms: You are likely low in cortisol.

Fewer than five symptoms: Consider checking your cortisol level, in either your blood or your saliva. Most mainstream doctors don’t look for gradations in adrenal problems, which is what low cortisol is.
Part C
Do you have or have you experienced in the past six months...

- Agitation or PMS?
- Cyclical headaches (particularly menstrual or hormonal migraines)?
- Painful and/or swollen breasts?
- Irregular menstrual cycles, or cycles becoming more frequent as you age?
- Heavy or painful periods (heavy: going through a superpad or tampon every two hours or less; painful: you can’t function without ibuprofen)?
- Bloating, particularly in the ankles and belly, and/or fluid retention (in other words, you gain 3 to 5 pounds or more before your period)?
- Ovarian cysts, breast cysts, or endometrial cysts (polyps)?
- Easily disrupted sleep?
- Itchy or restless legs, especially at night?
- Increased clumsiness or poor coordination?
- Infertility or subfertility (you’ve been trying hard to conceive but haven’t hit the official twelve-month mark of no conception—six months if you’re thirty-five or older)?
- Miscarriage in the first trimester?

Total Part C ________

Results
Part C: Low Progesterone and Progesterone Resistance
Low or slow progesterone is the second most common hormone imbalance experienced by women over thirty-five.

Five or more of these symptoms: You are probably low in progesterone.
Three or four: You may need to address this hormone imbalance.
Fewer than three or unsure: Dr. Gottfried recommends asking your doctor to test your blood (serum) progesterone level on Day 21 of your menstrual cycle.
Part D
Do you have or have you experienced in the past six months...

☐ Bloating, puffiness, or water retention?
☐ Abnormal Pap smears?
☐ Heavy bleeding or postmenopausal bleeding?
☐ Rapid weight gain, particularly in the hips and butt?
☐ Increased bra-cup size or breast tenderness?
☐ Fibroids?
☐ Endometriosis, or painful periods? (Endometriosis is when pieces of the uterine lining grow outside of the uterine cavity, such as on the ovaries or bowel, and cause painful periods.)
☐ Mood swings, PMS, depression, or just irritability?
☐ Weepiness, sometimes over the most ridiculous things?
☐ Mini breakdowns? Anxiety?
☐ Migraines or other headaches?
☐ Insomnia?
☐ Brain fog?
☐ A red flush on your face (or a diagnosis of rosacea)?
☐ Gallbladder problems (or removal)?

Total Part D _________

Results
Part D: Excess Estrogen
Wherever you fall on the spectrum, you should become more aware of your possible exposure to xenoestrogens.

Five or more of these symptoms: Probably high in estrogen. Estrogen dominance affects 80 percent of women over thirty-five.

Three or more symptoms: High estrogen is a significant possibility.
Part E
Do you have or have you experienced in the past six months...

☐ Poor memory (you walk into a room to do something, then wonder what it was, or draw a blank midsentence)?
☐ Emotional fragility, especially compared with how you felt ten years ago?
☐ Depression, perhaps with anxiety or lethargy (or, more commonly, dysthymia: low-grade depression that lasts more than two weeks)?
☐ Wrinkles (your favorite skin cream no longer works miracles)?
☐ Night sweats or hot flashes?
☐ Trouble sleeping, waking up in the middle of the night?
☐ A leaky or overactive bladder?
☐ Bladder infections?
☐ Droopy breasts, or breasts lessening in volume?
☐ Sun damage more obvious, even glaring, on your chest, face, and shoulders?
☐ Achy joints (you feel positively geriatric at times)?
☐ Recent injuries, particularly to wrists, shoulders, lower back, or knees?
☐ Loss of interest in exercise?
☐ Bone loss?
☐ Vaginal dryness, irritation, or loss of feeling (as if there were layers of blankets between you and the now-elusive toe-curling orgasm)?
☐ Lack of juiciness elsewhere (dry eyes, dry skin, dry clitoris)?
☐ Low libido (it’s been dwindling for a while, and now you realize it’s half or less than what it used to be)?
☐ Painful sex?

Total Part E ________

Results
Part E: Low Estrogen
Most women don’t notice a significant drop in estrogen until their forties or even fifties.
Five or more of these symptoms: You are probably low in estrogen.
Three or more: There’s a good chance you are low in estrogen.
Part F
Do you have or have you experienced in the past six months...

- Excess hair on your face, chest, or arms?
- Acne?
- Greasy skin and/or hair?
- Thinning head hair (which makes you question the justice of it all if you’re also experiencing excess hair growth elsewhere)?
- Discoloration of your armpits (darker and thicker than your normal skin)?
- Skin tags, especially on your neck and upper torso? (Skin tags are small, flesh-colored growths on the skin surface, usually a few millimeters in size, and smooth. They are usually noncancerous and develop from friction, such as around bra straps. They do not change or grow over time.)
- Hyperglycemia or hypoglycemia and/or unstable blood sugar?
- Reactivity and/or irritability, or excessively aggressive or authoritarian episodes?
- Depression? Anxiety?
- Menstrual cycles occurring more than every thirty-five days?
- Ovarian cysts?
- Midcycle pain?
- Infertility? Or subfertility?
- Polycystic ovary syndrome?

Total Part F ________

Results
Part F: Excess Androgens
This is the most common endocrine reason for infertility in women.
Five or more of these symptoms: You are very likely high in androgens.
Three or four: You might have excess androgens, and I urge you to address this hormone imbalance, since it puts you at significant risk for infertility and possibly diabetes.
Fewer than three of these symptoms or are unsure: Dr. Gottfried recommends asking your doctor for a blood (serum) test of your free-testosterone level or Free Androgen Index (FAI).
Part G
Do you have or have you experienced in the past six months...

☐ Hair loss, including of the outer third of your eyebrows and/or eyelashes?
☐ Dry skin?
☐ Dry, strawlike hair that tangles easily?
☐ Thin, brittle fingernails?
☐ Fluid retention or swollen ankles?
☐ An additional few pounds, or 20, that you just can’t lose?
☐ High cholesterol?
☐ Bowel movements less often than once a day, or you feel you don’t completely evacuate?
☐ Recurrent headaches?
☐ Decreased sweating?
☐ Muscle or joint aches or poor muscle tone (you became an old lady *overnight*)?
☐ Tingling in your hands or feet?
☐ Cold hands and feet? Cold intolerance? Heat intolerance?
☐ A sensitivity to cold (you shiver more easily than others and are always wearing layers)?
☐ Slow speech, perhaps with a hoarse or halting voice?
☐ A slow heart rate, or bradycardia (fewer than 60 beats per minute, and not because you’re an elite athlete)?
☐ Lethargy (you feel like you’re moving through molasses)?
☐ Fatigue, particularly in the morning?
☐ Slow brain, slow thoughts? Difficulty concentrating?
☐ Sluggish reflexes, diminished reaction time, even a bit of apathy?
☐ Low sex drive, and you’re not sure why?
☐ Depression or moodiness (the world is not as rosy as it used to be)?
☐ A prescription for the latest antidepressant but you’re still not feeling like yourself?
☐ Heavy periods or other menstrual problems?
☐ Infertility or miscarriage? Preterm birth?
☐ An enlarged thyroid/goiter? Difficulty swallowing? Enlarged tongue?
☐ A family history of thyroid problems?

Total Part G ___________
Results
Part G: Low Thyroid
Many doctors view women who are concerned about their thyroid as if they’re suffering from mild hysteria. Stand your ground.

Five or more symptoms: You *likely* have a thyroid problem. Dr. Gottfried recommends asking your doctor to test your thyroid, particularly with the most sensitive tests that measure Thyroid-Stimulating Hormone (TSH), free triiodothyronine (T3), and reverse T3.

Between three and five symptoms: You might have a problem.