

Video: What you need to know about sleep

March 21 2016, by Kim Irwin

Dr. Alon Avidan, a professor of neurology and director of the UCLA Sleep Disorders Center, offers these tips for getting better sleep:

- Avoid alcohol and caffeine too close to bedtime, as they disrupt sleep architecture and lead to fragmented sleep.
- Use [light exposure](#) to your advantage. Light is the most important circadian cue, so it's critical to limit exposure to bright light during the evening. This means no computers, TVs or tablets at least two hours before bedtime. And get plenty of [sun exposure](#) in the morning, so you'll feel alert during the day and be sleepy by nightfall.
- Avoid excessive naps, except for a brief 15- to 20-minute snooze between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., if you need it. Excessive napping may take away the drive for sleep at night.
- Keep your bedroom dark, quiet, well-ventilated and at a comfortable, slightly cooler temperature throughout the night.
- Create a consistent and relaxing [bedtime](#) routine, such as reading a pleasant book or listening to soothing music.

Provided by University of California, Los Angeles

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