Eggplant Provençal

INGREDIENTS

1 medium eggplant
2 tablespoons olive oil
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¼ cup onion, chopped
½ cup red pepper, diced
½ cup yellow pepper, diced
¼ cup water
½ lb extra-lean ground beef
2 garlic cloves, chopped
2 teaspoons paprika
1 tablespoon wine vinegar
1 teaspoon dried oregano
¼ cup cheddar cheese, grated
½ cup white rice, dry

PREPARATION

1. Preheat the oven to 400°F. Line a baking tray with parchment paper.
2. Cut the eggplant in half lengthwise. Rub 1 tablespoon of olive oil on the cut surface of each half. Place the eggplant halves, cut side down, on the tray and bake for approximately 35 minutes. When done, the inside of the eggplant should be soft while the outside should be able to hold its shape.
3. In a non-stick pan, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the onion and the peppers and fry for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add the water and continue cooking until the liquid evaporates. Transfer to a plate and set aside.
4. In the same pan, add the ground beef, garlic and paprika and fry until the meat is browned. Add the vinegar, oregano, onion and peppers from step 3. Combine all and remove the pan from the heat.
5. Cook the rice following the instructions on the package.
6. Remove the eggplant halves from the oven. Carefully remove the flesh with a spoon while leaving the skin and a thin layer of flesh on the inside intact so the eggplant halves can hold the stuffing.
7. Add ¼ cup of eggplant flesh to the stuffing mixture from step 4 and stir to combine. Discard the remaining eggplant flesh.
8. Divide the stuffing between the two eggplant halves and sprinkle with grated cheese. Return the eggplant halves to the oven for a few minutes until the cheese is melted.
9. Cut the eggplant halves into 4 portions and serve with the cooked rice.
Hamburger meat substitutes

Consuming the right amount of protein with chronic kidney disease is important to maintaining good health. Many people with reduced kidney function also have heart problems and should follow a heart-healthy diet, which is low in fat and cholesterol. Working with a registered dietitian can help determine your specific protein needs and the best choices of protein for your health.

If you are supposed to follow a heart-healthy diet, use extra lean ground beef. You may also consider other substitutions.

Plant-based protein sources include ground tofu or vegetable burgers. Cumin, garlic and black pepper can add excellent flavor to these choices. Read product labels and select those lowest in sodium and potassium.

Ground chicken, turkey and pork are also good protein options. Basil, garlic, sage, thyme and dried savory are just a few spices for adding low-sodium and low-potassium flavor. Choose fresh ground meat without added salt and low in fat as a healthy option.