



Common Podiatric Conditions

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MedNet21

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
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Objectives

- Discuss common podiatry conditions
- Discuss evaluation, management, and recommendations
- Bunion deformity
- Hallux limitus
- Paronychia
- Puncture wounds / foreign body
- Tinea pedis
- Critical lower extremity conditions (office)

Bunion

- Also known as hallux abductovalgus deformity
- Presents with “bump” at medial 1st metatarsal head
- Pain, inflammation, edema at 1st metatarsophalangeal joint
- Can present with callus or ulcer
- Can be asymptomatic



Bunion

Differential Diagnoses

- Gout
- Rheumatoid arthritis/Psoriatic arthritis
- Infection
- Trauma
- Arthritis

Bunion Etiology

| Primary | Secondary | Trauma |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Pronation | RA, Gout | Sesamoid fracture |
| Flexible midfoot / elevatus | 2 nd toe amputation | 1 st MPJ ligament instability |
| Elongated 1 st ray | Sesamoidectomy | Fracture of 1 st toe or 1 st metatarsal |
| | Limb length discrepancy | |
| | Neuromuscular disorders | |
| | | |

Derived from Textbook of Bunion Surgery. Preoperative Evaluation of the Bunion Patient. Ch. 2 Table 1. J Gebert, S. Palladino. Date Trace 2012.

Bunion physical exam

Pain with manual pressure to 1st metatarsal head

- Medial 1st metatarsal head prominence
- Lateral deviation of 1st toe
- Can be asymptomatic
- Weightbearing exam
- Tracking vs trackbound at 1st MPJ
- 1st MPJ range of motion
- 1st ray hypermobility?

Bunion radiographs

- WEIGHTBEARING***
- 1st intermetatarsal (IM) angle
- Hallux abductus angle
- Hallux abductus interphalangus angle
- Sesamoid position
- Elevatus
- Bone quality



Bunion radiographs

- WEIGHTBEARING***
- 1st IM angle 8-10°



Bunion radiographs

- WEIGHTBEARING***
- Hallux abductus angle 10-15°



Conservative Care

- NSAIDs
- Icing
- Bunion pads/sleeves
- Splinting
- Wide toe box shoes
- Orthotics



Bunion Surgical Options

- Soft tissue/bone remodel
- Osteotomy
- Fusion
- Address any other biomechanical factors
 - Ex: flatfoot deformity, equinus

Bunion Surgical Options

- Soft tissue/bone remodel
- Silver procedure
- Capsulorrhaphy
- Sesamoidectomy



Bunion Surgical Options

- Osteotomy
 - Distal ²
 - Proximal
 - Midshaft ^{4,5}
 - Proximal phalanx (Akin procedure) ⁷
 - MIS



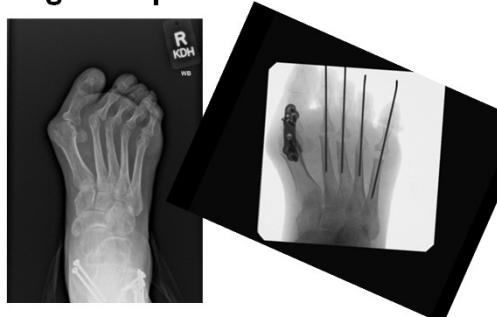
Bunion Surgical Options

- Osteotomy
 - Distal
 - Proximal
 - Midshaft
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 - MIS ^{8,9}



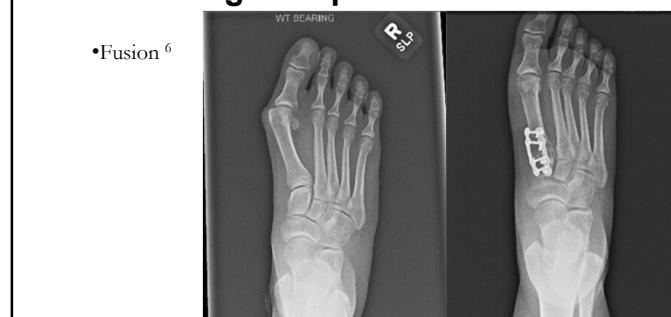
Bunion Surgical Options

- Fusion



Bunion Surgical Options

- Fusion ⁶



Hallux limitus/rigidus

- Decreased range of motion at 1st MPJ ^{10,11}
- Normal dorsiflexion 65°
- Normal plantarflexion 20°
- Hallux rigidus = less than 20° 1st metatarsophalangeal joint ROM
- Functional hallux limitus = less than 20° 1st metatarsophalangeal joint ROM when weightbearing

Hallux limitus/rigidus



Hallux limitus/rigidus



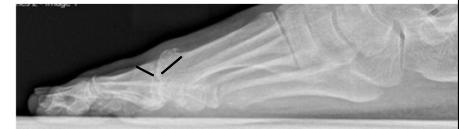
Hallux limitus/rigidus

- Imaging
- X-rays
- MRI – osteochondral defect/cyst
- CT

Hallux limitus/rigidus - treatment

- NSAIDS
- Steroid injection
- Orthotics
 - Morton's extension
- Carbon fiber plate
- PT

Hallux limitus/rigidus procedures



Hallux limitus/rigidus procedures



Paronychia

Infected ingrown toenail ¹³

- Pain often 1st sign
- Cellulitis
- Drainage
- Check shoes
- Trauma
- Biomechanical causes



Paronychia

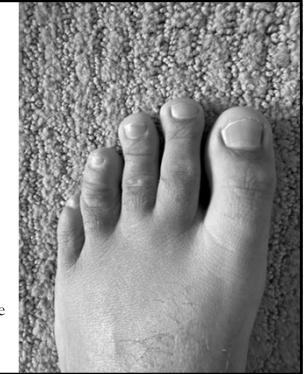
Treatment based on severity ^{14,15}

- Mild
 - Epsom salt soaks
 - Topical antibiotics
 - Tissue manipulation (cotton tip)
- Moderate
 - Oral antibiotics – Staph aureus, Streptococci, Pseudomonas
 - Nail avulsion
- Severe/neglected
 - Chronic > 6 weeks
 - Complete avulsion
 - Advanced imaging

Nail avulsion

Determined by extent of infection

- Partial (medial/lateral)
- Complete avulsion
- Antibiotic considerations
 - Culture if deep infection
 - 1st generation cephalosporin
- Recurrence?
 - Matrixectomy – permanent procedure
 - Phenol vs excisional



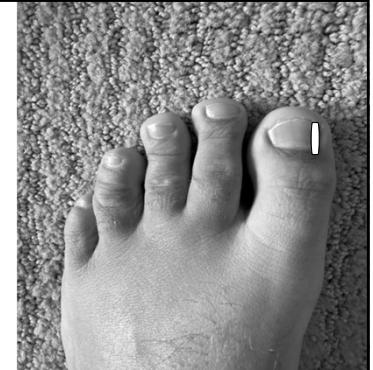
Nail avulsion

- Digital block
- 1% lidocaine plain (2-5cc)
- Appropriate tools
 - English anvil
 - Freer
 - Curette
 - Hemostat
- Irrigate with 0.9% NS



Nail avulsion

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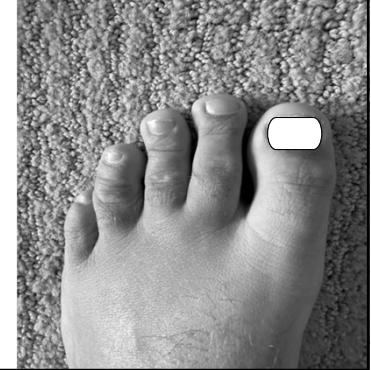
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Patient education

- Wide toe box shoes
- Toe splints
- Proper hygiene



Foreign body

- Puncture wound
- Direct extension?
- Through sock or shoe?
- Tetanus status – CDC guidelines
- Examples
 - Nail – most common
 - Glass
 - Wood

Foreign body – tetanus update

| Vaccination History | Tdap (clean/minor) | TIG (clean/minor) | Tdap (all other) | TIG (all other) |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Incomplete/unknown | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| Complete < 5 years | No | No | No | No |
| Complete 5-10 years | No | No | Yes | No |
| Complete > 10 years | Yes | No | Yes | No |

CDC 2025 Clinical Guidance for Wound Management to Prevent Tetanus

Foreign body

- Anatomic considerations
- Patient and physician safety
- Cellulitis
- Wound drainage



Foreign body imaging

- Helps identify depth
- X-ray***
- CT
- Ultrasound¹⁹
- MRI
 - Drainage
 - Osteomyelitis
- Patzakis Classification¹⁷
 - Zone 1 – toe to metatarsal head (50%)
 - Zone 2 – midfoot (17%)
 - Zone 3 – calcaneus (33%)



Foreign body imaging



Foreign body (post removal)

- Obtain post removal imaging if possible



Foreign body management

- Superficial cleansing
- Removal of foreign body
 - In office vs OR
- Wound exploration and debridement
 - Wound culture if applicable
- Copious irrigation
- Wound care
 - Pack open
 - Insert drain
 - Appropriate dressing changes
- Offloading of wound
 - Cutout pads
 - Surgical shoe/boot



Foreign body management

Antibiotic considerations

- Staph aureus – most common
- Beta-hemolytic strep – 2nd most common
- Through sock/shoe? – consider Pseudomonas aeruginosum coverage
- May not need intervention
 - Young, healthy
 - Minor or superficial wound
- 1st generation cephalosporin

Tinea pedis

“Athlete’s foot”²²

- Interdigital or moccasin type
- Shoes and socks create optimal environment
- Dry, itching scale, can be pruritic
- Differential diagnosis: eczema, psoriasis xerosis, corns/callus

Tinea pedis

Interdigital

- Maceration, possible fissure
- Can have secondary bacterial infection
- Ex: Pseudomonas, corynebacterium



Tinea pedis

Moccasin type

- Trichophyton rubrum*
- Chronic form
- Serpiginous, circular scale
- Possible erythema

Tinea pedis

- KOH (potassium hydroxide) preparation
 - +fungal hyphae
- Fungal culture, PAS stain, PCR
- Punch biopsy to rule out differential diagnoses
- Educate on proper hygiene

Tinea pedis

- Topical medications (4 weeks)
 - Ciclopirox
 - Ketoconazole
 - Econazole
 - Terbinifine
 - Naftifine
- Oral antifungal (chronic)
 - Terbinafine 250mg daily for 2 weeks
 - Itraconazole 200mg BID for 1 week
 - Fluconazole 150mg weekly for 2-6 weeks

Peripheral Arterial Disease

- Thin, atrophic skin
- Decreased/absent pulses
- Absent pedal hair
- Cool to touch
- Doppler if available



Peripheral Arterial Disease

Atherosclerotic disease with arterial obstruction

- Smoking history
- HTN
- HLD
- Family history of PAD
- Claudication
- Rest pain

Diagnostic testing - ABI

Ankle/Brachial Index – 1st line for outpatient provider

- A/B = I
- Ankle pressure / Arm pressure = Index
- Report will generally also show wave form and TBI
 - Triphasic = normal
- Interpret with caution
 - Ex: calcified vessels in diabetic causes false elevation
 - Defer to vascular surgeon of previous intervention (bypass)

| ABI | Analysis | Risk | Recommendation |
|-----------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| > 1.3 | Elevated | Clinical picture* | Refer to vascular |
| 0.9 – 1.3 | Normal | Low | None |
| 0.8 – 0.9 | Mild PAD | Moderate/Low | Clinical picture, risk dependent* |
| 0.5 – 0.8 | Moderate PAD | Moderate/High | Refer to vascular |
| < 0.5 | Severe PAD | High | Refer to vascular |

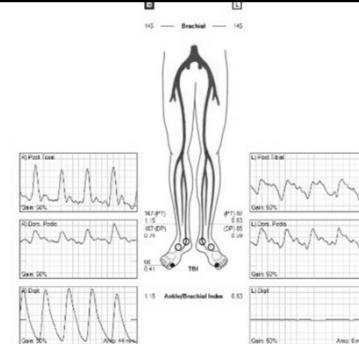
Non-invasive vascular testing

Toe Brachial Index

- TBI
- Normal > 0.70
- Severe PAD < 0.30
- If toe wound present, might not be performed

Marston et al., 2006
Mills et al., 2014

ABI



ABI

RIGHT LOWER LIMB:
The ankle brachial index is within normal limits.
Biphasic waveforms noted in the posterior tibial artery and dorsalis pedis artery.
The ankle PVR is abnormal.
The great toe pressure is abnormal.

LEFT LOWER LIMB:
Monophasic waveforms in arterial perfusion to the lower extremity at rest.
Monophasic waveforms noted in the posterior tibial artery and dorsalis pedis artery.
The ankle PVR is abnormal.
The great toe PPG waveform is absent, unable to obtain great toe pressure.
The 2nd digit PPG waveform is abnormal.

| Segment | Right | | | | |
|------------|----------|-------|----------|--------------|--------------|
| | Pressure | Index | Waveform | PVR Waveform | PPG Waveform |
| Brachial | 145 | | | | |
| Ankle (PT) | 167 | 1.15 | Biphasic | Abnormal | |
| Ankle (DP) | 107 | 0.74 | Biphasic | | |
| 1st Digit | 60 | 0.41 | | Abnormal | |

| Segment | Left | | | | |
|------------|----------|-------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Pressure | Index | Waveform | PVR Waveform | PPG Waveform |
| Brachial | 145 | | | | |
| Ankle (PT) | 92 | 0.63 | Monophasic | Abnormal | |
| Ankle (DP) | 85 | 0.59 | Monophasic | | |
| 1st Digit | | | | Absent | Abnormal |
| 2nd Digit | | | | | |

Non-invasive vascular testing

TcPO2

- Transcutaneous oxygen pressure
- $< 30\text{mmHg}$ = severely impaired arterial perfusion ²⁷
- $30 - 50\text{mmHg}$ = mild to moderately impaired arterial perfusion
- TcPO2 lower specificity than skin perfusion pressure or TBI

Updated Recommendations



10 Take Home Messages from report

1. Peripheral arterial disease is a common cardiovascular disease associated with increased risk of amputation, MI, stroke, and death, as well as impaired quality of life, walking, performance, and functional status.
2. The guideline defines 4 clinical subsets of PAD: asymptomatic PAD (may have functional impairment), chronic symptomatic PAD (including claudication), chronic limb threatening ischemia, and acute limb ischemia.
3. Detection of PAD in most patient is accomplished through the history, physical, examination, and resting ankle-brachial index
4. Health disparities in PAD are associated with poor limb and cardiovascular outcomes and must be addressed at the individual patient and population levels, with interventions coordinated between multiple stakeholders across the cardiovascular community and public health infrastructure

10 Take Home Messages from report

5. Effective medical therapies for patients with PAD should be prescribed to prevent major adverse cardiovascular events and major adverse limb events for patients with PAD, including antiplatelet (generally single antiplatelet) and antithrombotic therapy, lipid-lowering (ie, high intensity statin) and antihypertensive therapy, management of diabetes, and smoking cessation. Rivaroxaban (2.5mg twice daily) combined with low-dose aspirin (81mg) daily is effective to prevent major adverse cardiovascular events and major adverse limb events in patients with PAD who are not at risk of increased bleeding.
6. Structured exercise is a core component of care for patients with PAD. It includes supervised exercise therapy and community-based programs.
7. Revascularization (endovascular, surgical, or hybrid) should be used to prevent limb loss in those with chronic limb-threatening ischemia and can be used to improve quality of life and functional status in patients with claudication not responsive to medical therapy and structured exercise.

10 Take Home Messages from report

8. Care for patients with PAD, and especially those with chronic limb-threatening ischemia, is optimized with delivered by a multispecialty care team.
9. Foot care is crucial for patients with PAD across all clinical subsets and range from preventative care and patient education to advanced care in the setting of chronic limb-threatening ischemia. Podiatrists and other specialists with expertise in foot care, wound healing therapies, and foot surgery are important members of the multispecialty care team.
10. The PAD National Action Plan outlines 6 strategic goals to improve awareness, detection, and treatment of PAD nationwide. Implementation of this action plan is recognized as a top advocacy priority by the writing committee.

10 Take Home Messages from report



Charcot neuroarthropathy

- Neuropathic conditions
 - Diabetic neuropathy
 - Alcoholic neuropathy, syringomyelia, spinal cord injury, syphilis
- Neurovascular vs neurotraumatic theories
- Red, hot, swollen joint
 - Can be from injury
 - Often non painful due to neuropathy

Charcot neuroarthropathy



Charcot neuroarthropathy



Charcot neuroarthropathy

- Eichenholtz Classification ^{29,30}
- Stage 1 – Bone dissolution, subchondral osteopenia, fragmentation of bone with accompanying intra-articular loose bodies, and joint malignment due to ligament laxity
- Stage II – Coalescence, debris absorption, subchondral sclerosis, periosteal bone formation, and fusion of larger bone fragments
- Stage III – Reconstruction, remodeling of deformity with rounding and smoothing of bone fragments and fibrous ankyloses

Charcot neuroarthropathy

- Goal is to get out of stage 0/I and into a more stable stage II/III
- Immobilization*
- Maintain a plantar grade foot
- Prevent ulcer and infection
- Control diabetes or underlying condition

Charcot neuroarthropathy

- Immobilization



Charcot neuroarthropathy



After 6 months of immobilization

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Common Foot and Ankle Conditions

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Objectives

- Common foot and ankle conditions
 - Plantar Fasciitis
 - Retrocalcaneal Exostosis
 - Neuroma
 - Digit deformities
- Basic evaluation and overview
- Basic treatment

Heel Pain

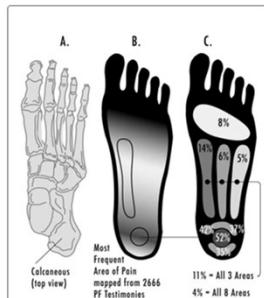
- Plantar fasciitis
- Heel spur syndrome
 - Misnomer
- Post static dyskinesia
- Plantar heel pain
 - Medial calcaneal tubercle
- 4-7% of the population



Thomas MJ, Whited B, Menz HB, et al. Plantar heel pain in middle-aged and older adults: population prevalence, associations with health status and lifestyle factors, and frequency of healthcare use. BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders 2019;20:337.

Etiology

- Flat foot
- Equinus
- Overpronation
- Weight gain
- Exercise regimen
- Poor shoe gear
- Barefoot walking



Spur Comparison



Physical Exam

- Pronated foot
- Obese
- Edema to plantar/medial heel
- Pain with palpation
 - Lateral compression

- Subjective findings
- Post-static



Analysis of Plantar Fasciitis Websites Using the DISCERN Instrument
 Deana L. Lewis, DPM¹, Sean Reyes, DPM¹, Christy Ortigas, RN², Said Atway, DPM¹
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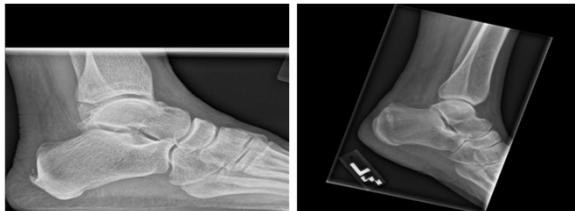
Analysis of Plantar Fasciitis Videos on YouTube:
 Quality and Reliability Assessment

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Not Plantar Fasciitis



Treatment

- 80% of patients improve in 12 months
- Stretching
- Home cryotherapy
- Avoid barefoot walking
- NSAIDs
- Activity modifications
- Support



Image from Wikipedia

Secondary Treatment

- Injections
 - Steroid
- Night splint
 - Windlass
- Immobilization
- Custom orthotics
- Formal physical therapy



Advanced workup and treatment

- Imaging
 - US and MRI
- Surgery
 - Failed conservative treatment >6 mos
 - Plantar fasciotomy
 - ESWT (extracorporeal shockwave therapy)
 - Coblation





- Retrocalcaneal Exostosis
- Haglunds Deformity
- Insertional Achilles tendinitis

Posterior spur



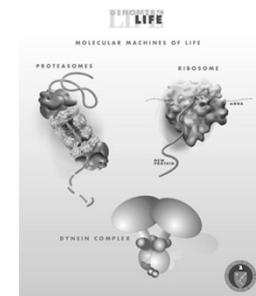
Etiology

- Similar to Plantar fasciitis
- Intratendinous spur
- Haglund's deep to the achilles

- Patients typically report:
- Dull, aching pain at the posterior heel
- Tenderness and swelling exacerbated by activity or footwear
- Palpable thickening or hardness near the Achilles insertion
- Pain during initial steps after rest (e.g., morning pain)



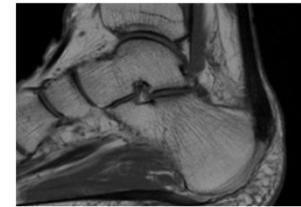
- Caused by **chronic mechanical stress** from a short or tight Achilles tendon pulling on its calcaneal insertion.
- This stress stimulates **Wolff's Law**-driven bone formation.
- Risk factors include:
 - Obesity
 - Poor conditioning
 - Certain footwear (e.g., rigid heel counters)
 - Athletic activity
 - Female gender (possibly due to shoe styles)



Conservative treatment

- Alfredson Protocol
- Physical therapy
- Bracing
- Shoe modifications
- Surgical Excision
- Minimally invasive
- ESWT
- Arthroscopic
- Open

Bracing and Imaging



Neuroma/Morton's Neuroma

Burning pain

Numbness/Tingling

Sharp radiating pain

"Wrinkled-sock
sensation"



Exam

- Pain with palpation
- Mulder's click
- Radiating sensation
- Radiographs
- R/O differentials
- Ultrasound
- MRI

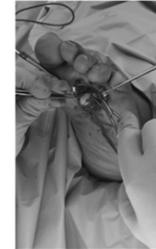


Treatment

- Shoe modifications
- Orthotics
- Padding
- Injections
 - Steroid
 - EtOH
- Surgery
 - Excision
 - Decompression



Neuroma Excision vs. Neurolysis



- Neuroma traditionally thought of as a growth of nerve.
- Nerve entrapment



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Treatment of Morton's Neuroma by Neurolysis

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Article Neurectomy versus Neurolysis for Morton's Neuroma

Carlos Villar, MD, PhD, Borja Flores, MD, and Matias Alfonsi, MD, PhD

REVIEW ARTICLE - PERIPHERAL NERVES
Treating Morton's neuroma by injection, neurolysis, or neurectomy: a systematic review and meta-analysis of pain and satisfaction outcomes

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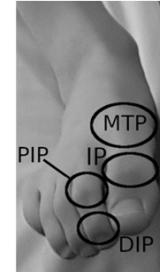
Digital Deformities

- Hammertoe
- Claw toe
- Mallet toe
- Crossover toe
- Adductovarus
- Contracture



Exam

- Radiographs
- Pain with palpation
- Callus
- ROM
- Stability/push up/WB



Polydactyly



Conservative Treatment

- Shoe modifications
- Padding
- Debridement
- Taping
- Injections



Surgery

- Arthroplasty
- Arthrodesis
 - Fixation
- Osteotomy
- Tendon transfer
 - Soft tissue balance



Conclusion

- Exhaust conservative treatment
 - Shoe modifications
- Realistic goals
 - Patient expectations
- Surgical treatment options

