

Peripheral Neuropathy in Diabetics

Diabetes can affect several systems in the body, including the nervous system. The most common type of peripheral neuropathy affects the leg and foot. Diabetic Peripheral neuropathy results in the loss of sensation of the foot. Symptoms may include tingling, numbness, and in some cases, pain. This loss of protective sensation may result in the patient being unaware of an injury by ill-fitting shoes, objects that have fallen in their shoes, stepping on an object while walking barefooted, or a burn.

The loss of sensation may also result in the development of painless ulcers. These painless ulcers may become infected and may result in amputation

Proper treatment includes management of diabetes by your physician and daily inspection of the feet by the patient or a family member.

Your podiatrist can evaluate your sensation for signs of peripheral neuropathy and other signs of diabetic foot complications and provide advice on proper foot care. Annual visits to a podiatrist for a foot examination are recommended for all diabetic patients.

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