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Men – Don’t Neglect Your Feet!

Americans recognize Father’s Day every June by gathering and celebrating the father figures in our lives.

Fathers do all they can to take care of us – but do they take care of themselves? Men often ignore subtle, nagging pain and physical problems and “tough it out.” But these types of problems can often become chronic issues that require more serious treatment to heal.

Here are some common foot problems that men often have – and too often ignore:

**Fungus** - Athlete’s foot isn’t just an annoying itch – it’s an infection that won’t go away by itself. Worse, this fungus can be spread to your hands and other body areas. Over-the-counter products may just give temporary relief. Come see us to have the proper oral or topical medication prescribed.

**Fungal nail** - Yellow, chalky or brittle toenails aren’t normal! For a permanent solution to this problem, we’ll prescribe oral or topical medication. In severe cases, debridement or removal of the infected part of the nail may be recommended.

**Bunions** - Because of bad shoe choices or even genetics, the base of your big toe may have shifted sideways, crowding out the other toes and creating a painful bump at the base of the big toe. Painful bunions don’t get better by themselves – come in for help.

**Hammertoe** - Over the years, your toe may get permanently bent in the middle joint from small, tight shoes or muscle imbalances. Switch to shoes with roomy toe boxes and keep those toes stretched and flexible.

**Arthritis** - Yes, arthritis can hit your feet too. Switch to a workout that’s easier on your lower limbs such as swimming. Invest in new, supportive shoes for walking and running.

**Plantar warts** - These nasty skin problems can really be painful. The virus is contagious and easily picked up at public pools and locker rooms. A podiatrist has the right methods to get rid of that wart permanently.

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Achilles Tendonitis Can Hit Professional Athletes and Weekend Warriors

Ouch! Achilles tendonitis can really hurt.

The Achilles tendon is the largest tendon in the body and runs down the back of your lower leg, connecting the heel to the calf muscle. This tendon helps us with all motions including walking, jumping and running.

The Achilles tendon is thick and strong enough to withstand forces of 1,000 pounds or greater! But it is also the most commonly injured tendon because of athletic injuries.

Because of overuse, an injury or stress, or degeneration, this tendon can become inflamed. You will know when you have damaged your Achilles tendon – here are some common symptoms:

- Pain or aching at the back of the lower calf, especially after exercising or running
- Pain that worsens over time
- Swelling in the back lower calf area – even without exercising
- Tenderness or stiffness in the lower calf, especially when stepping onto the floor when you first get up in the morning

Diagnosing and Treating Achilles Tendonitis

To diagnose Achilles tendonitis, we will assess your level of pain and swelling in the back of your heel and lower calf. We’ll ask you to stand on your toes, as this can be extremely painful and almost impossible with this type of injury.

Treatment for Achilles tendonitis can include:

- Switching to non-impact exercises
- Limiting the tendon’s motion with a walking boot or support bandage
- Using custom-fitted orthotics to alleviate stress and strain on the tendon
- Stretching of the tendon and surrounding area with physical therapy or proper at-home exercises
- Using over-the-counter anti-inflammatory medications – with our doctor’s advice – to reduce pain and swelling

In severe cases that don’t respond to conservative treatments, surgery may be necessary.
Recipe of the Month
Rigatoni with Swiss Chard and Turkey Sausage

Now in season at your local farm, swiss chard has stems that look a little like celery and can be green, red or rainbow-colored - a mixture of red, orange, pink and yellow. Cutting off the colorful stems and using just the leafy greens gives this savory pasta a healthy dose of magnesium and vitamins A and C.

Ingredients

- Kosher salt
- 12 ounces rigatoni
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 12 ounces spicy turkey sausage, casings removed, crumbled
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 6 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 bunch Swiss chard, stems removed, leaves chopped
- 1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon all-purpose flour
- 1 3/4 cups milk (not skim)
- 1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese (about 1 ounce)
- Grated zest of 2 lemons
- Freshly ground pepper

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Directions

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the pasta and cook as the label directs. Reserve 1/2 cup cooking water, then drain the pasta.

Meanwhile, heat the olive oil in a large Dutch oven or wide skillet over medium-high heat. Add the sausage and cook until browned, about 5 minutes. Transfer to a plate using a slotted spoon; set aside.

Wipe the Dutch oven clean; add the butter and melt over medium heat. Add the garlic and cook, stirring, until slightly softened, 1 to 2 minutes. Add the chard and cook, stirring occasionally, until wilted, 3 to 4 minutes. Sprinkle in the flour and cook, stirring, until combined, 1 to 2 minutes.

Add the milk to the chard mixture and bring to a boil; cook 1 minute. Stir in the sausage, parmesan, lemon zest and a few grinds of pepper. Reduce the heat to medium low and simmer, stirring occasionally, until slightly thickened, about 6 minutes. Add the pasta to the pot and toss, adding enough of the reserved pasta water to loosen the sauce and coat the rigatoni.

Recipe courtesy of Food Network Kitchen

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**Trivia**

Metatarsalgia is a condition describing acute pain in the ball of the foot.

A) True  
B) False

Answer: A. True

Explanation:

Metatarsalgia is the medical term for acute pain in the ball of the foot. A common overuse injury, metatarsalgia can become chronic as a result of stress and pressure on the ball of the foot. This is often caused by shoes and actions that put an abnormal amount of pressure on the ball of the foot, such as high heels and high-impact sports.

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**Crossword**

Across

4. custom fitted device to treat many foot problems
5. common symptom of Achilles tendonitis
6. persistent or recurring
8. removal of damaged tissue
9. toe with a painful bump
11. good low impact workout

Down

1. common symptom of Achilles tendonitis
2. when big toe shifts creating painful bump
3. good exercise to do before and after a workout
5. foot doctor
7. inflamed tendon
10. itchy infection

See Answer at:  
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and easily picked up at public pools and locker rooms. A podiatrist has the right methods to treat Plantar warts

Limbs such as swimming. Invest in new, supportive shoes for walking and running. Arthritis

Those toes stretched and flexible.

Small, tight shoes or muscle imbalances. Switch to shoes with roomy toe boxes and keep them on.

Hammertoe

Of the big toe. Painful bunions don’t get better by themselves – come in for help.

Because of bad shoe choices or even genetics, the base of your big toe may be bent. Corrective exercises may be recommended.

Fungal nail

Oral or topical medication prescribed. Over-the-counter products may just give temporary relief. Come see us to have the proper treatment to heal.

Here are some common foot problems that men often have – and too often ignore:

Fathers do all they can to take care of the father figures in our lives. Every June by gathering and celebrating, Americans recognize Father’s Day.

Men – Don’t Neglect Your Feet!

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Achilles Tendonitis Can Hit Professional Athletes and Weekend Warriors

The Achilles tendon is the largest tendon in the body and runs down the back of your lower leg, connecting the heel to the calf muscle. This tendon helps us with all types of athletic injuries.

It is commonly injured tendon because of overuse, an injury or stress, or some other issue. It is a “tough it out” type of injury, but these types of issues that require more serious treatment to heal.

“Tough it out.” But these types of injuries require professional attention. Men often ignore subtle, early signs of Achilles tendonitis, thinking it can be just another pulled muscle. But it isn’t – and the quicker you will be free of pain!

Do a favor for yourself or for that favorite man in your life – get help from a qualified podiatrist. Remember, the sooner you address a foot problem, the sooner it will be treated – even without exercising.

Plantar fasciitis with physical therapy, custom-made orthotics or injection therapy. Bottom of your foot, can cause stabbing pain with each step. Come in and let us treat your heel pain – even without exercising.

Inflammation of the plantar fascia, a thick band of tissue running along the bottom of your foot. Ouch! Achilles tendonitis can really hurt.

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Meet our Doctors

Eric Lewis, DPM

Benjamin K. Marble, DPM

Welcome Dr. Zeno Pfau

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