

WELCOME TO RECONSTRUCTIVE FOOT & ANKLE INSTITUTE, LLC

NEWS YOU CAN USE! This is a newsletter about various topics related to foot and ankle wellness.

Listen to our Podcasts and view our videos on foot and ankle problems at:
www.rfainstitute.com, call us at 877.797.FOOT, Visit us on Facebook or Twitter.

Daniel D. Michaels, DPM, MS & Associates

Frederick 301.418.6014, 2100 Old Farm Drive, Suite D, 21702
Hagerstown 301.797.8554, 1150 Professional Court, Suite C, 21740

We provide Comprehensive Foot and Ankle Care® to our patients with offices currently in Frederick and Hagerstown, Maryland. From basic care of ingrown toenails, heel pain and warts to reconstructive procedures and management of complex pain conditions, we provide a one-stop shop for all your needs. For your convenience, all recommended medicines and foot-care products are available through our in-office and online retail stores www.rfainstitute.com. Same day and emergency appointments are available without a wait. Our staff is approachable and knowledgeable with a willingness to help and solve your foot and ankle problems. We focus on conservative, non-surgical treatment and exhaust these options prior to recommending surgery. If you need surgery we have advanced training in all types of foot and ankle surgery to ensure your optimal outcome. Our providers work with you as a patient and partner by listening to and educating you about treatment options so you can make an informed choice of treatment that fits your individual needs. We offer the latest technology in digital radiography and ultrasound equipment, electronic medical records, on site surgery center, shoe stores, medical equipment and lasers.

A TEAM APPROACH TO DIABETES

Because diabetes is a systemic disease affecting many different parts of the body, the ideal case management requires a team approach. Your podiatric physician is an integral part of that team, and he or she can be one key to your health management. Therefore, routine foot screenings by a podiatrist should be standard for all patients with diabetes and those at risk as well.

No one knows exactly how or why people develop diabetes, but once diagnosed, the disease is usually present for life. It is a hereditary disorder, and certain genetic indicators are known to increase the risk of developing the disease. What we do know for sure is that the incidence of diabetes in the U.S. is increasing at a staggering rate. We also know that some populations, including African-Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans, are at higher risk for the disease.

Of all the risk factors, weight is the most important, with more than 80 percent of people with diabetes classified as overweight or obese. If you have already been diagnosed with diabetes, there are a few things you can do to prevent further complications from your disease:

- Wash and carefully dry your feet daily
- Inspect feet and toes daily
- Establish a healthy weight loss plan if you are overweight
- Wear socks designed specifically for diabetic patients
- Stop smoking
- Exercise
- See your podiatrist regularly for all foot care issues
- Never try to remove calluses, corns, or warts by yourself
- Don't go barefoot
- Don't drink alcohol in excess
- Wear properly measured and fitted shoes.

While there is no cure for diabetes, there is hope. With proper diet, exercise, medical care, and careful management at home, a person with diabetes can keep the most serious consequences of the disease at bay and enjoy a long, full life. Working with all your doctors together will ensure that your health and well-being are in good hands. Your podiatric physician is an integral part of your healthcare team; make sure to make time to visit your podiatrist on a regular basis if you have been diagnosed with diabetes.

For further information about foot or ankle conditions, contact one of our foot and ankle surgeons at the Reconstructive Foot & Ankle Institute, LLC. Visit us on the web at www.rfainstitute.com or make an appointment with one of our state of the art offices in Maryland:

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Thank you for your interest in the Reconstructive Foot & Ankle Institute, LLC. No problem is too small or large to manage in our pleasant, friendly, warm, state-of-the-art facilities that utilize evidenced based medical solutions to all ailments. We provide Comprehensive Foot and Ankle Care® to our patients with offices in Frederick and Hagerstown, Maryland. At the Reconstructive Foot & Ankle Institute, LLC our experienced qualified and highly trained Practitioners and Patient Care Professionals are dedicated to providing quality compassionate care to our patients. We strive to help make a difference in the quality of life for these individuals.

The Institute provides evaluation and management services from basic care of ingrown toenails, heel pain and warts to reconstructive procedures and management of complex pain conditions, pediatric to geriatric, diabetic foot care/amputation prevention, heel pain, trauma, bunions, ingrown toenails and hammertoes. We focus on conservative, non-surgical treatment and exhaust these options prior to recommending surgery. If you need surgery, we have advanced training in all types of foot and ankle surgery to ensure your optimal outcome. Our providers work with you as a patient and partner by listening to and educating you about treatment options so you can make an informed choice of treatment that fits your individual needs. All Providers have full hospital privileges at Washington County Hospital and Frederick Memorial Hospital as well as our on site ambulatory surgical center in Hagerstown to provide you with the most efficient and effective care possible. Our staff is approachable and knowledgeable with a willingness to help and solve your foot and ankle problems.

Efficient scheduling, same day, emergency appointments and convenient hours are available without a wait. Our offices provide in-office diagnostic ultrasound, X-ray (digital radiography), shockwave therapy, electronic prescribing, electronic medical records, ambulatory surgical care, physical therapy services, nerve, vein and arterial testing and medical equipment for rent or purchase. A full array of shoes and braces that support lower extremity pathology and augment surgical repair as well as advanced surgical techniques are available. The Institute participates with most insurance plans and offers patients the convenience of an on-site and online retail store supplying over the counter foot and ankle care products as well as a full line of dress, athletic and custom shoes, sandals and braces.

Please visit our website at www.rfainstitute.com to learn more about the Institute. For questions and other information e-mail us at info@rfainstitute.com.

To make an appointment at our Frederick office, please call 301.418.6014. 2100 Old Farm Drive Ste. D, Frederick, MD 21702

To make an appointment at our Hagerstown office, please call 301.797.8554. 1150 Professional Court, Suite C, Hagerstown, MD 21740

We look forward to solving your foot and ankle problems with Comprehensive Foot and Ankle Care®.

Very truly yours,

Daniel D. Michaels, DPM, MS & Associates