

FAST FACTS: Foot Pain

The foot is an extremely complex structure made up of 26 bones, 33 joints, 19 muscles, 107 ligaments plus nerves, blood vessels, and connective tissue.

✓ Causes of Foot Pain

- Injuries: sprains, strains, bruises, and fractures
- Diseases: diabetes, Hansen disease, or peripheral vascular disease
- Infections: bacterial, viral, or fungal
- Inflammations: gout, bony outgrowths on the heel, plantar fasciitis, or arthritis
- Structural problems: ingrown toenails

✓ Possible Interventions

- Treatment will depend on the cause of the pain and may involve medication for infectious causes or to relieve inflammation, strengthening, stretching, and possibly physical therapy.
- Non-Drug Treatments (for minor pain).
 - Rest and/or elevation of the limb
 - Ice to affected area
 - Compression
- Over the counter medications (for minor pain).
 - Acetaminophen
 - Ibuprofen

✓ Prevention

- Encourage mobility, good hygiene, and weight loss if appropriate.
- Routine foot care including nail trimming.

✓ What Else You Should Do

- Write down and share information about your loved one's pain with their healthcare provider.
- Use a [Pain Diary](#) to note important information useful to the healthcare provider.
- Encourage your loved one to try a non-drug treatment and document the impact on their pain in their Pain Diary.



Revised January 2022

References

WebMD. June 11, 2021. *Foot Pain*. <https://www.webmd.com/pain-management/guide/foot-pain-causes-and-treatments>.

Mayo Clinic. March 13, 2021. *Foot Pain*. <https://www.mayoclinic.org/symptoms/foot-pain/basics/causes/sym-20050792>.