



Foot & Ankle
Associates of Florida

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News and Updates

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Why Do Wart Myths Persist?

Unsightly and uncomfortable warts have long been an affliction of legends and tall tales. Can you get them by touching frogs or toads? Can you get rid of them with yogurt, pennies, or duct tape? Why do myths about warts keep perpetuating?

To get to some ideas why, it helps to ensure what warts actually are. A wart—whether it's a plantar wart on the foot, a palmer wart on the hand, or just a plain old wart anywhere else—is the result of a viral infection. Once this virus enters the skin, it causes a quick growth of cells on the outer layer of the skin. This is the wart.

While warts can occasionally be painful, they are otherwise harmless in a vast majority of cases (very few cases end up cancerous, and most of these are not on the feet and hands). Warts may also go away on their own over time. Some can be gone in as few as 10 weeks, while others may take up to 2 years or not go away at all!

So why the myths? We're not saying there might not be something in your aunt's honey-sage spread that may help clear warts. But if you're trying a home remedy and a wart goes away on its own, for unrelated reasons, you might be inclined to believe that did it. It's only human nature to.

As long as you're not hurting yourself, trying a remedy for warts is likely not a problem. But if your warts persist, you have reason to believe something more is wrong, or you're just plain sick of seeing them, contact your friendly local professional.



Exercise Smart to Prevent Overuse Injuries

As much as a hyped up, '80s music-fueled training montage might make it seem, going "all out" is not the wise way to pursue your fitness goals.

Our bodies react to the stress and exertion we place on them by growing stronger and more efficient—that's what working out is all about. However, this exertion must start out lightly and be gradually ramped up over time. Place too much stress on the body before it can properly handle it and you risk overuse injuries such as Achilles tendinitis and stress fractures.

Here are some general tips for staying active while avoiding overuse injuries:

- **Get Checked Out Before Starting a New Regimen** – If you plan on picking up a new exercise such as running, cycling, or swimming, get a physical before doing so. Your doctor can detect muscle imbalances and other factors that may increase your risk of injury.
- **Warm Up and Cool Down** – It might seem trivial, but 5-10 minutes of stretching before and after a workout can make a difference in maintaining your body.
- **Gradually Increase Your Intensity** – Start simple and build up your workout level no more than 10 percent each week. This may involve running just a bit further or lifting just a bit more weight. Don't tempt yourself to beat others; go at your own pace.

Slow and steady may not always win the race in real life, but it will keep you from getting sidelined! If you have any questions about exercise levels or pain you experience during exercise, please let us know. We'll help you stay in action!

Mark Your Calendars

- May 1** National Mother Goose Day – Share your favorite nursery rhyme with your child.
- May 4** Star Wars Day – Plan on seeing Solo later this month?
- May 6** National Nurses Day – Recognizing those devoted to care.
- May 9** National Lost Sock Memorial Day – They're in the angels' lint trap now.
- May 13** National Apple Pie day – Can't get much more American!
- May 18** National Bike to Work Day – If you can, of course.
- May 24** National Scavenger Hunt Day – We hid your first clue under your chair (just kidding!)
- May 30** National Senior Health and Fitness Day – It's never too late to start moving!



Exercising with Your Children Isn't Just Good for Them



Many children nowadays spend a lot of time sitting in front of the TV, in a classroom, or in a car seat. But then again, many adults spend a lot of time sitting in similar situations. When family time comes, some active ideas can make a significant difference to members young and old.

Exercise doesn't always have to mean running laps or pumping iron. There are many lower-key ways of getting more movement into the lives of you and your littles ones. Try some of these to see what everyone likes:

- **Take a Walk Before or After Dinner** – With a long day of work or school over with, a walk as a family can do wonders for body and mind. Younger children can alternate time in and out of a stroller, while older children can engage in some stair climbing or “I spy” kinds of games.
- **Turn Commercials into Mini Workouts** – Make these breaks work for you by engaging in some quick sit-ups, squats, or jumping jacks. Someone in the family can yell out exercise orders each break for more fun.
- **Sign Up for Charity Races and Other Active Events** – Volunteer events that are both fun and active can help instill a sense of community in children (and parents, too!) while keeping you moving. You don't have to be a trained runner to participate in many area 5K walks or fun runs.

When the family is exercising together, it's not just about a healthy body. It's also about quality time! Talk with and encourage each other along the way.



How to Make Pancakes Healthier

We know that pancakes are not a dish we could take away from many fans. They'd tell us to pry the syrup from their warm, sticky fingers! While white flour and sugar don't tend to be the most beneficial choices for a healthy diet, a few decisions can make this classic plate better for you.

Here's how to hack your flapjack:

- **Go Homemade** – Those boxed mixes don't give you much control. Toss 'em and go homemade instead! Recipes don't take long: usually about 5 minutes to whip up what you need.
- **Add Oats to Your Batter** – Both rolled and quick oats are effective additions, especially if you like soft and chewy textures.
- **Replace Eggs with Mashed Bananas** – Instead of an egg, mash up a banana with a fork and add it instead. We probably don't have to tell you this will add banana flavor.
- **Replace Fat with Applesauce** – This is one of the better known tricks, but still effective! If you need half a cup of oil, use half a cup of applesauce instead.
- **Replace Syrup with Maple Yogurt** – 3 ounces of plain Greek yogurt with a teaspoon of maple syrup mixed in can be a delicious substitute for syrup alone, and replace plenty of empty calories.

Experiment with different mixes until you find what you like. Viva la pancake!



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Do You Have a Pinched Nerve?

We might not always be aware we're in a pinch in life until it's too late, but signs of a pinched nerve can be *much* easier to detect.

Nerves are sensitive instruments, so when something begins to place excessive pressure on one—such as a bone, tendon, or scar tissue, it will tend to have a response. Injuries, arthritis, repetitive work motions, and extra weight can all be risk factors for nerve entrapment.

Patients with a pinched nerve might describe the sensation differently. It all depends on what kind of nerve is being affected and how. In some cases, you may feel numbness or a decreased sensation. In other cases, you might feel a sharp, aching, or burning sensation. Muscles might also feel weak in the area, and you might also get a frequent feeling of "pins and needles" or that the area has "fallen asleep."

In many cases, nerve problems are said to feel worse during sleep. Just brushing the bedsheet can cause pain or abnormal sensations at times.

Some instances of a pinched nerve will clear on their own with rest, but others will require treatment or surgery. Please let us know if pain or numbness have persisted in your foot or ankle for more than several days. The sooner a problem is discovered, the more effective treatment can be!

