

Lakeview Community Wellness Center Orthopaedic Connection

Morton's Neuroma

By Thomas J. Haverbush, M.D.
Orthopaedic Surgeon

Transforming patient information into patient understanding.

What if I came in the exam room and told you, you had Morton's neuroma? You would probably think you had cancer and be very worried.

Well, you know I don't scare people with medical words they don't understand. I explain things first in your language. And it isn't cancer!

What Is It?

It is a painful condition of the foot that isn't a tumor at all. But the term neuroma sounds like that.

This condition of the foot was named for the surgeon who described it long ago. It is a thickening of the nerve at the base of the 3rd and 4th toes typically. The nerve gets caught and irritated between two metatarsal bones. Usually only one foot is affected.

Symptoms

It begins by feeling like there is a wrinkle in your sock. Or maybe like there is an object in your shoe you are stepping on.

Pain is present in the ball of the foot that radiates into the 3rd and 4th toes. Pain increases if shoes are slightly tight. It feels better to take the shoe off and massage the foot. You can't feel a lump. The 3rd and 4th toes often feel numb.

True Neuroma

To clarify, Morton's neuroma is not a true neuroma. It is an irritation, enlargement and thickening of a foot nerve caused by pressure.

Nerves in the hand, foot and elsewhere can develop true tumors that are overwhelmingly benign tumors. Benign neuroma tumors are not cancer. They don't spread, but they enlarge slowly and do cause problems.

Malignant tumors do sometimes occur in nerves.

How I Treat It

- Try wearing comfortable, cushioned, wide shoes for 4 weeks
- Lower heels are the best
- Wider shoes keep from pinching the bones together
- Pads or customized shoe inserts can lift and separate the bones
- Injection of a steroid is needed sometimes
- Surgery is helpful if nothing else works

What Else?

Stress fractures in the feet and arthritis can act like Morton's neuroma so I have to consider those conditions.

Office Website and Lakeview Area News Archive

The office website www.orthopodsurgeon.com is a great source for all the Orthopaedic and musculoskeletal information you need.

All the Orthopaedic problems I treat are contained in the website and Your Orthopaedic Connection.

In addition Lakeview Area News archive of all past articles can be found on the website. The full text of every article!

Check out this tremendous collection of information.

All of this information pertains to everything I treat in the office, the Lakeview Community Wellness Center Clinic and the hospital.

Orthopaedic Clinic

I appreciate your support of the Orthopaedic Clinic I have at Lakeview Community Wellness Center. All of the Orthopaedic problems I treat can be evaluated there.

Approaching Clinic dates are February 3 and February 17, 2012.

Patients can call 989-463-6092 for an appointment at the Lakeview Community Wellness Center Orthopaedic Clinic or at the office in Alma. No referral is required.

Our goal is simple - To help people return to more pain free, functional lives.

I specialize in you.

Good health. Good life. All the best to you.

Be well.

Dr. Haverbush