



Don't Stress Over Stress Fractures

The term "stress fracture" is enough to cause some anxiety, and its painful effects on your activities is surely not relaxing, either.

But if you're going to recover from these tiny cracks along the surface of a bone, you'll need to relax.

As the name implies, a stress fracture is usually caused by too much force being placed on the foot or ankle. This tends to be the result of either increasing the intensity of an activity beyond what the body is currently able to handle, or repetitive stress that has not allowed the body proper time to recover.

Our bones are fantastic structures that are capable of building themselves back and stronger than before, but keep the pressure up without giving yourself enough time for your body to heal and a stress fracture can happen!

Recovering from a stress fracture means letting your body catch up on its repairs and then some. Yes, that will likely mean reducing or postponing the activities you love. The alternative, however, can be worse. Continuing to pressure a stress fracture may make it worse and lead to long-term pain and injury.

So, if a stress fracture or other cause of pain has cropped up during your activities, let us know. We can help you not only get back to moving faster, but help you find the best ways to prevent such injuries from happening again!

About the Doctor



JEREMY MCVAY, DPM

Dr. Jeremy McVay established McVay Foot & Ankle to provide comprehensive, compassionate foot and ankle care for the Colorado Springs and the surrounding area.





Making a Safer Home for Feet

Home is where the heart is; and it's where many of the people you love reside, as well!

If you are caring for an older individual or someone who might have problems with balance and stability, you want their home to be one that reduces risks of falls and injury. Even if someone feels confident where they live, the home remains where most accidental falls occur.

There are some easy steps you can take to help lower the risks of such an accident happening in the home. It's all about having a watchful eye:

- **Eliminate obstacles.** Cluttered hallways and corners should always be kept clear of obstacles, especially anywhere on or near staircases.
- **Provide handrails and bars.** Staircases and bathrooms are a must for these simple but saving devices. Make sure they are securely installed, and ask for the help of an experienced contractor if you doubt your confidence in installing them yourself.
- **Fix potential hazards.** Sometimes, parts of the home itself can be in enough disrepair to increase the risk of a fall. This can include loose carpeting (and don't forget that rugs may also cause problems), uneven floor boards, and other fixtures that can become obstructions.
- **Increase visibility.** Well-lit areas are less likely to be the scenes of accidents. Install brighter bulbs where needed and add night lights in areas that may receive traffic at night (such as in bathrooms, and between bathrooms and bedrooms).

Further precautions you can take may depend on the specific needs and conditions of those in your home. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the roles of foot problems and stability in keeping your loved one's safe, never hesitate to bring them up with us.

Mark Your Calendars

- October 1** National Hair Day – Are you washing yours too much? See our article!
- October 5** National Do Something Nice Day – Make the world a bit kinder.
- October 10** National Bring Your Teddy Bear to Work/School Day – You know you have one.
- October 12** National Farmer's Day – From their hard work to your plate.
- October 17** National Mulligan Day – Give yourself a second chance.
- October 23** National TV Talk Show Host Day – aka Johnny Carson's birthday.
- October 26** National Pumpkin Day – Check out our recipe this month!
- October 29** National Cat Day – Will a black one cross your path?



Stop Those Spider Veins!

Spider veins are smaller versions of varicose veins and can not only be unsightly, but can also cause pain, swelling, and sometimes even an itchy rash. The good news is, though, that there are things you can do to help prevent these red and blue veins from branching out like spider webs all over your legs.

One reason spider veins occur is because of backed up blood having difficulty on its return journey to your heart. Movement helps get your blood flowing, so regular exercise can go a long way toward stopping spider veins before they start.

Other things you can do to promote blood flow and reduce your risk of this condition include elevating your feet, avoiding high heels, limiting time spent sitting with your legs crossed, wearing compression stockings, and taking breaks from standing for extended periods of time.

Aging and hormonal changes like those during puberty, pregnancy, and menopause can increase your chances of these web-like veins as well, but there's not much you can do about that! You can, however, protect yourself from the sun –another culprit that could be behind your troubles.

You might not be able to skirt every risk factor, but you can at least take some precautions to better your chances of keeping your legs – and your veins – clear and problem-free!

Perhaps you'll find more information on our web-site. (See what we did there?)



Squash Soup in Pumpkin Bowls

If you're in the mood for your pumpkins to hold more than candles or candy, try this recipe on for size.

Bowl Ingredients

- 4 small baking pumpkins, acorn squash, or sweet dumpling squash
- 2 tsp. sugar
- Kosher salt

Soup Ingredients

- 3 tbsp. unsalted butter
- Half a small onion, chopped
- Kosher salt
- 2 sprigs of thyme
- 1 medium butternut squash (about 2 lbs.) peeled and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 tsp. sugar
- Optional: 3 tbsp. heavy cream

Bowl Instructions

- Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.
- Cut a large circle around the stem of each gourd with a paring knife. Remove lid and scoop out.
- Sprinkle the inside of each with ½ tsp. each of sugar and salt.
- Place the pumpkins and lids on a baking sheet and roast 20-35 minutes, until tender.

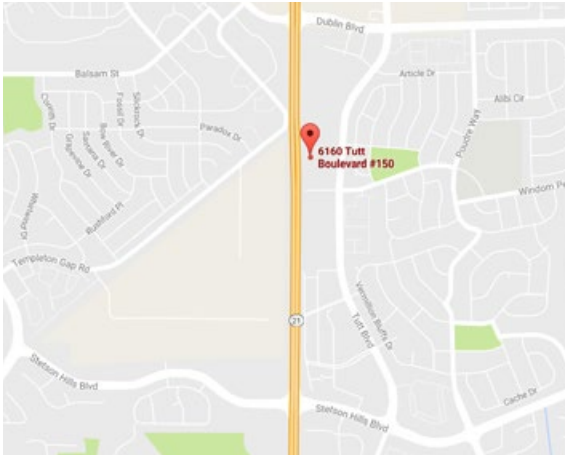
Soup Instructions

- Melt butter in a large saucepan over low heat.
- Add onion and 1 tsp. salt.
- Strip thyme leaves into the pot.
- Increase heat to medium and cook about 5 minutes, stirring until onion is soft.
- Add squash and sugar.
- Cook, stirring, for 3-4 minutes, until glazed.
- Add 5 cups of water and bring to a boil.
- Reduce heat to low and simmer, uncovered, for 15-20 minutes, until squash is tender.
- Transfer soup to a blender in batches. Keep lid cracked to let steam escape and purée until smooth.
- Return to saucepan and stir in heavy cream, if desired. Season with salt and pepper, and add toppings such as croutons, paprika, chili powder, ham, or bacon as desired.





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Things that Go Bump on Your Foot

When you're a doctor of any kind, you just come to expect someone asking you what a strange lump is somewhere. And we're glad patients do! Keeping an eye on your body is an essential part of discovering problems and addressing them before they become more serious. It's always better to check something out and have it be nothing to worry about than to overlook something that is!

So, if you find a mystery lump on your foot (we're talking something whose identity isn't pretty obvious, like a bunion), what could it be?

The most common cause of a bump or lump appearing on the foot is a ganglionic cyst. This is a small, soft, fluid-filled sac that forms near a joint or tendon. It's most commonly found on the top or side of the foot, or close to the ankle joint.

While a ganglionic cyst is not cancerous, it will usually not go away on its own and must be drained. Even then, the fluid within the cyst can refill if the entire thing is not surgically removed.

Unfortunately, there is always the possibility that a lump can be cancerous. If there is reason to suspect something might be malignant, we may recommend a biopsy and other tests to help determine what exactly we are dealing with.

If you have a lump on your foot that has not gone away after a few days, it is always best to have it examined sooner than later. Not only will addressing the problem sooner often lead to more effective treatment, but having the peace of mind of knowing what something is or is not can be very powerful to your emotional health.

Never be shy if you want us to look at something. We always want you to speak up!