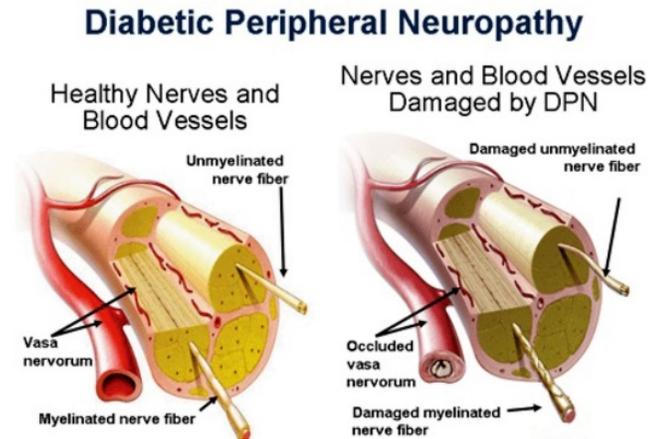


# Chiropractic Care to Control Peripheral Neuropathy in Diabetics

Chiropractic care can be utilized to treat Peripheral Neuropathy (or damage to nerves and nerve function). This insidious, progressive condition is related in large part to the impaired circulation that most diabetics experience. Impaired circulation causes inadequate delivery of oxygen and nutrients to the nerve tissues. In addition, free radical damage, inflammation, glycation (the reaction of proteins with excess glucose), and the accumulation of a type of sugar called sorbitol damage nerve cells and contribute to neuropathy.



Symptoms include numbness or tingling in the outer extremities like fingers and toes, which then move up the limbs toward the core. A sense of imbalance or dizziness can also be experienced, and at the first signs of this condition, you should examine your patient immediately.

## American Diabetes Association Facts:

- In 2015, 30.3 million Americans (9.4%) had diabetes
- 24% (7.2 million) of these were undiagnosed
- 1.5 million Americans are diagnosed with diabetes each year
- In 2015, 84.1 million Americans age 18 and older had prediabetes
- Approximately 1.25 million American children and adults have type 1 diabetes
- Sixty percent (60%) of patients who suffer from diabetes also develop Peripheral Neuropathy
- More than 60% of nontraumatic lower-limb amputations occur in diabetics
- Diabetes remains the 7th leading cause of death in the United States in 2015, with 79,535 death certificates listing it as the underlying cause of death, and a total of 252,806 death certificates listing diabetes as an underlying or contributing cause of death.

**The good news is that early diagnosis may prevent further complications.**

Some chiropractors believe that chiropractic therapy can not only reduce symptoms of this condition, but eliminate the condition itself. Rather than masking the pain and other symptoms of Peripheral Neuropathy with medications, chiropractic aims for the source of the problem, improving overall health and other health ailments that induce it.

Others, like Chiropractor Paul Raveling believe that, though chiropractic isn't a cure, it should be an integral part of any treatment plan. As Raveling says; ***“Chiropractic care is an effective treatment for Peripheral Neuropathy because it targets the root cause for a patient’s pain symptoms; we do not simply rely on medication to numb this pain. While chiropractic care is not a ‘cure’ for Peripheral Neuropathy, it is an important part of an effective treatment program.”***

Raveling also believes that early diagnosis and treatment may reduce the severity of the motor nerve and sensory nerve damage, as well as help patients with the management of the disease.

***“Diabetes-related complications are common and debilitating, and 7 out of 10 general respondents diagnosed with diabetic nerve pain said that their nerve pain makes them feel like they are not successfully managing their diabetes,”*** said ADA Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs and Community Affairs Jane Chiang, M.D.

***“Everyone experiences Peripheral Neuropathy a little differently. For some individuals, the pain may come and go, while for others, the pain may be constant. As the condition worsens, individuals may experience coordination and balance loss, along with a freezing pain, muscle weakness or extreme sensitivity to touch. I urge anyone who may be experiencing these symptoms to seek immediate treatment.”*** added Raveling.

Therefore, **Nerve Conduction Velocity (NCV)** and **Electromyogram (EMG)** testing should be a regular part of every chiropractor’s diabetic patient’s treatment plan.



An NCV test measures how quickly electrical impulses move along a nerve. It is often done at the same time as an electromyogram, to exclude or detect muscle disorders. A healthy nerve conducts signals with greater speed and strength than a damaged nerve. The speed of nerve conduction is influenced by the myelin sheath - the insulating coating that surrounds the nerve.

Most neuropathies are caused by damage to the nerve's axon rather than damage to the myelin sheath surrounding the nerve. In addition to pain and numbness, the condition can include a variety of other symptoms such as prickling and throbbing or a freezing sensation. It can also damage the brain's capacity to communicate properly with regions of the body.

The NCV test is used to distinguish between true nerve disorders (such as Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease) and conditions where muscles are affected by nerve injury (such as carpal tunnel syndrome). Differentiating between the nerve fiber (axon) from injury to the myelin sheath surrounding the nerve, is very useful when formulating diagnostic and therapeutic strategies.

Chiropractic care is then confidently administered to patients who suffer from Peripheral Neuropathy. This not only helps manage the patient's pain, it also allows the chiropractor to treat the underlying cause.

### **Bring In-Office Diagnostic Testing to Your Chiropractic Practice!**

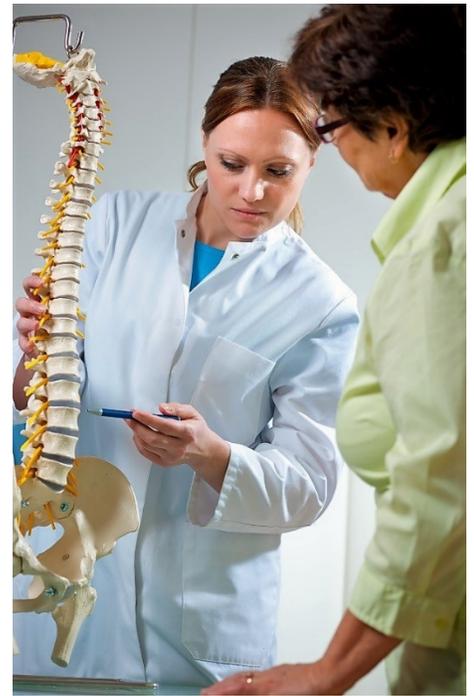
Experience the benefits of Nerve Conduction and Ultrasound Testing in your own office! Our licensed technologists come right to your practice to perform the diagnostic testing that you prescribed for your patients, using the latest State-of-the-Art medical diagnostic equipment available to achieve the highest accuracy possible. All images and data are then sent to our staff of board certified Neurologists, Radiologists, and Cardiologists who interpret the data and images from each test performed to accurately diagnose your patients. You'll receive the test results and interpretations within a 48 to 72-hour period for most procedures.

For over 25 years, GPA Capital's imaging partner has been at the forefront in offering **nationwide** mobile diagnostic testing that allows chiropractors the tools to clearly determine the exact cause and severity of discomfort, pain, and any nerve damage that may be present in their patients.

### **Benefits to Your Patients**

- ✓ Allow your patients to be tested in the comfort of your own office.
- ✓ Provide your patients with better care and a more accurate diagnosis.

- ✓ Support your diagnosis - rule in or rule out disease and/or nerve damage.
- ✓ Testing can create documentation that you can utilize to show the root cause of your patient's condition.
- ✓ Ongoing testing will allow doctors to track the progress of the condition and/or treatment to determine if condition is improving or worsening.
- ✓ Our testing will demonstrate to insurance companies that ongoing treatment is necessary, mitigating the number of unnecessary denials.
- ✓ Avoid sending patients to hospitals or referring them out for these procedures when they can be done in the comfort of your own office.
- ✓ It costs your patient little to nothing. We try our best to absorb their deductible, and if not, we tell them what the testing will cost before we schedule them. We will **never** bill the patient!



### **Easy Implementation and Financial Benefits to the Physician:**

Simply identify 7- 8 commercial insurance (no Medicare or Medicaid) patients that you suspect are diabetic or have already been diagnosed with the symptoms. Our team will handle the administrative responsibilities of pre-authorization, billing/collections, transcription and neurovascular interpretations, as wells as treatment recommendations.

There is nothing the physician needs to provide other than the exam room. We immediately pay you \$1,000 for the “fair market” rental of an exam room for that day and then **you** bill for the follow up visit and treatment (typically \$500-\$1,500 per test day).

For practices that provide this service only one day per month, they can make an additional \$30,000/year. However, there is no limit to the number of days that a practice can offer this. Many practices have us in every other week (\$60,000/year) or weekly (\$120,000/year). You are in control of how often you and your patients need our services.

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