

PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY

Peripheral neuropathy is a condition that develops as a result of damage to the peripheral nervous system, or the nerves outside the brain and spinal cord. When many nerves are affected, it's called polyneuropathy.

Neuropathies can be caused by numerous underlying conditions, including but not limited to:

- Autoimmune diseases
- Diabetes
- Infections
- Inherited disorders
- Medications, especially chemotherapy
- Metabolic problems
- Toxin exposure
- Trauma
- Vitamin deficiency
- Alcoholism

SYMPTOMS

Symptoms vary depending upon the nerves affected, but typically include numbness, weakness, and pain. In many cases, symptoms can improve with rehabilitation. Symptoms may include:

Motor nerve damage: Muscle weakness or pain, lack of coordination, falling, uncontrollable muscle twitching, decreased reflexes

Sensory nerve damage: Tingling or numbness in hands and feet, pain that's sharp, throbbing or burning, extreme sensitivity to touch

Autonomic nerve damage: Heat intolerance, inability to sweat normally, bowel or bladder problems, changes in heart rate or blood pressure

DIAGNOSIS

A variety of tests can be used to determine the causes and symptoms of neuropathy, including:

- Neurological exam, including extensive medical history
- Physical exam
- Muscle strength tests
- Blood tests
- Nerve conduction tests
- Electromyography (EMG)

REHABILITATIVE TREATMENT

Treatments for neuropathy can include medications, topical treatments, and therapies. In particular, physical and occupational therapy can help reduce symptoms.

At **ClearSky Rehabilitation Hospital of Leesville**, patients and their families meet with the physician-led, interdisciplinary team to set goals and create comprehensive, individualized treatment plans.

Treatments are used to:

- Regain muscle strength
- Increase flexibility
- Aid in balance, and coordination
- Reduce muscle pain, throbbing, burning, or twitching
- Prevent muscle cramping and spasms

Please Call
337.392.8118
TO MAKE A REFERRAL

