

THE BASICS 540.985.0500

Back to Basics Physical Therapy 1015 First Street SW, Roanoke, VA 24016

Physical Therapy for Foot Drop



Foot drop syndrome is a neuromuscular disorder characterized by weak muscles in the front of the lower leg. This can result in partial or total loss of control over the foot. This affects the ability to lift the foot at the ankle.

Damage to the nerve fibers that allow the flexing of the ankle and toes can cause several problems. For example, the toes point towards the floor when the foot is lifted up from the ground. When patients attempt to walk, they tend to drag the foot along the ground. They further compensate by lifting the knee higher than usual.

Foot drop can often be the sign of a major underlying complication, rather than a 'simple' inability to raise the foot. It can be caused by a nerve injury, spinal or brain disorder or muscle disorder. Foot drop can affect one foot or both feet and can be temporary or permanent, depending on the cause.

Physical therapy plays an important role in the management of foot drop. It allows patients to experience better mobility, which leads to an improved quality of life.

Exercise Goes a Long Way...

Exercise Therapy

Exercise is the primary treatment for patients with foot drop. Strengthening exercises of the muscles within the foot and the lower limbs help maintain muscle tone. Such exercises will help strengthen and stretch the foot while returning mobility to the ankle.

Stretching exercises are an excellent treatment for foot drop. Physical therapists will advise patients to sit on the floor, place a towel around the foot, hold onto both ends and gently pull the towel towards them. This helps stretch the muscles of the calf and foot.

Other exercises include leg flexes and toe curls. Several sets and repetitions are required to stimulate the muscles sufficiently.

Electrical Stimulation


In some patients with foot drop, physical therapists may advise a treatment regime that includes electrical stimulations of the nerves and muscle fibers. This helps generate electrical impulses within the muscles and can, to an extent, help increase the tone and the contractility.

Gait Training

Gait signifies the way a person walks. A gait abnormality is a deviation from normal walking.

Gait training is recommended for those patients with significant gait problems. This treatment helps a patient walk more efficiently and improve stability by incorporating different strength and balance exercises.



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Patient Testimonial

As I continue the exercises and massage, I continue to see reduction in lymphedema.

Do you need physical therapy?

If you have any of the following conditions we can help!

Tendonitis/ Bursitis

Sprain/ Strain

Jaw, Neck, or Back Pain

Tension Headache

Pelvic Pain/ Incontinence

Lymphedema

Trigger Points

Pre/ Post Surgical Protocols

At times, gait training requires the use of walkers, canes and parallel bars to safeguard the patient.

A gait belt is an assistive device used to help a patient maintain balance during training.

Braces and Splints

For individuals with limited control over their foot muscles, an "Ankle-Foot-Orthosis (AFO)" is used to help improve gait. AFO are L-shaped braces designed to support the function of the ankle and foot by keeping them perpendicular (at an angle of 90 degrees). This helps to keep the foot off of the ground while walking.

The Road to Recovery



Foot drop can be rather debilitating for patients and can affect mobility to a great degree. While there are several causes of foot drop, physical therapy is the most effective treatment option.

Long-term outcomes vary but many patients can regain significant function and mobility following a physical therapy plan of care.

As your trusted healthcare professionals with several years of experience treating muscular and neurological conditions, we promise to take good care of you. Together, we will walk the road to recovery.

Don't hesitate, reach out to us today and give us the opportunity to show you how physical therapy can change your life.

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Most Insurances Accepted!

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Help us celebrate our 10 year anniversary! We are having an open house for Mother's Day and to celebrate our 10th year of business. The OPEN HOUSE is MAY 6th from 10am until 4pm. Please come join us to learn about our physical therapy and wellness services or just come enjoy some treats. We will have refreshments, complimentary manicures, pedicures, facials and chair massage. We hope to see you and please call 540.985.0500 if you have any questions.

We see WALK-INS so don't wait for a Physical Therapy appointment, when we can see you immediately.

Please call us if you are interested in *pre/post natal* classes.

Become a fan of Back to Basics on facebook.

Refer a family member or a friend and receive a free 30 min. massage!

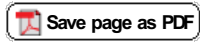
(Must be a previous patient)

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