

Foot Care and Diabetic Neuropathy

Anthony Decuir, Jr., DPM



Prevention!!!







Impact of Diabetic Neuropathy

- 60-70% of foot ulcers are preceded by Neuropathy
- 85% of diabetes related lower limb amputations are preceded by a foot ulceration
- Most Common Proximate, Nontraumatic Cause of Amputations
- Largest number of diabetes related hospital bed-days

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THE REAL COST OF DIABETES

DIABETIC FOOT COMPLICATIONS ARE COMMON AND COSTLY

DIABETIC FOOT HEALTH



Up to **25%** of those with **DIABETES** will develop a **FOOT ULCER**



Estimated annual U.S. burden of diabetic foot ulcers is at least

\$15 BILLION

COST OF DIABETES IN THE US



\$176 BILLION
direct medical costs

\$69 BILLION
indirect medical costs
(disability, reduced productivity, premature death)

INVESTMENT IN CARE

\$1 invested in care by a podiatrist results in **\$27** to **\$51** of savings for the health-care system, among patients with commercial insurance.



\$1 invested in care by a podiatrist results in **\$9** to **\$13** of savings, among Medicare eligible patients.

OUTSMART DIABETES

Podiatric medical care can reduce amputation rates up to **80%**



The inclusion of care provided by podiatrists for those with diabetes alone will save the health-care system **\$3.5 BILLION** per year.

APMA
AMERICAN PODIATRICAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

YOU CAN OUTSMART DIABETES
WITH TODAY'S PODIATRIST

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.APMA.ORG

Expensive and Deadly: The Real Cost of Diabetes



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Diabetic foot complications cost more than the five most costly forms of cancer

WASHINGTON—For Americans, the cost of diabetes has never been greater. Not only does the disease cause detriment to the well-being of citizens, it also puts a tremendous financial burden on the country. More than 29.1 million people in the US suffer from diabetes, and diabetes costs us upwards of \$245 billion per year.

A major cost associated with diabetic medical care is lower-limb amputation. Diabetes can cause patients to lose sensation in their extremities, so an individual may not immediately notice injuries to his or her feet. This condition can cause diabetic ulcers—wounds on the feet that are slow to heal and prone to infection—which often require amputation. In 2013, about 73,000 Americans with diabetes needed amputations. The average cost for each amputation is over \$70,000.

“For those who have diabetes or are at risk for the disease, regular checkups by a podiatrist are one of the easiest ways to prevent most foot complications,” said American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) President Frank Spinosa, DPM. “Including a podiatrist in your care can reduce amputation rates by as much as 85 percent.”

A study by APMA found that among patients with commercial insurance, each \$1 invested in care by a podiatrist results in \$27 to \$51 of savings for the health-care system. Among Medicare-eligible patients, each \$1 invested in care by a podiatrist results in \$9 to \$13 of savings.

“With proactive foot care, diabetes patients can reduce the risk of infection and amputation, improve function and quality of life and reduce health care costs,” Dr. Spinosa added.

To learn more, and to find a podiatrist in your area, visit www.apma.org.

View an [infographic](#) on the cost of diabetes nationwide.

The American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) is the nation's leading professional organization for today's podiatrists. Doctors of Podiatric Medicine (DPMs) are qualified by their education, training, and experience to diagnose and treat conditions affecting the foot, ankle, and structures of the leg. APMA has 53 state component locations across the United States and its territories, with a membership of more than 12,000 podiatrists. All practicing APMA members are licensed by the state in which they practice podiatric medicine. For more information, visit www.apma.org.

The Risk of Subsequent Amputation Following An Initial Lower Extremity Amputation: A Systematic Review

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Comparative Study

Fate of the contralateral limb after lower extremity amputation

Julia D Glaser et al. J Vasc Surg. 2013 Dec.

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Abstract

Objective: Lower extremity amputation is often performed in patients where both lower extremities are at risk due to peripheral arterial disease or diabetes, yet the proportion of patients who progress to amputation of their contralateral limb is not well defined. We sought to determine the rate of subsequent amputation on both the ipsilateral and contralateral lower extremities following initial amputation.

Risk of reamputation in diabetic patients stratified by limb and level of amputation: a 10-year observation.

Diabetes Care. 2006; 29(3):566-70 (ISSN: 0149-5992)

Izumi Y; Satterfield K; Lee S; Harkless LB



Commentary | [Open Access](#) | [Published: 24 March 2020](#)

Five year mortality and direct costs of care for people with diabetic foot complications are comparable to cancer

[David G. Armstrong](#) , [Mark A. Swerdlow](#), [Alexandria A. Armstrong](#), [Michael S. Conte](#), [William V. Padula](#) & [Sicco A. Bus](#)

Journal of Foot and Ankle Research **13**, Article number: 16 (2020) | [Cite this article](#)

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Abstract

Background

In 2007, we reported a summary of data comparing diabetic foot complications to cancer. The purpose of this brief report was to refresh this with the best available data as they currently exist. Since that time, more reports have emerged both on cancer mortality and mortality associated with diabetic foot ulcer (DFU), Charcot arthropathy, and diabetes-associated lower extremity amputation.

Preventing Diabetes-Related Amputations

[Print](#)

Lower-limb amputations (LLA), which is surgery to remove a toe, foot, or leg, are increasing in the US, and 80% are a result of complications from diabetes. From 2009 to 2019, the number of diabetes-related hospitalizations due to amputation doubled.

But the good news is that most diabetes-related amputations can be prevented with lifestyle changes, blood sugar management, regular foot checks, and prompt wound care when needed.

How Diabetes Can Lead to an LLA

High blood sugar over time can cause diabetes complications that raise the chance of an LLA:

- **Peripheral arterial disease (PAD)** can narrow the blood vessels that carry blood to your legs and feet. Poor blood supply can make even a tiny cut heal slowly or not at all.
- **Peripheral nerve damage** can cause loss of sensation so you may not notice cuts, sores, or ulcers on your feet.

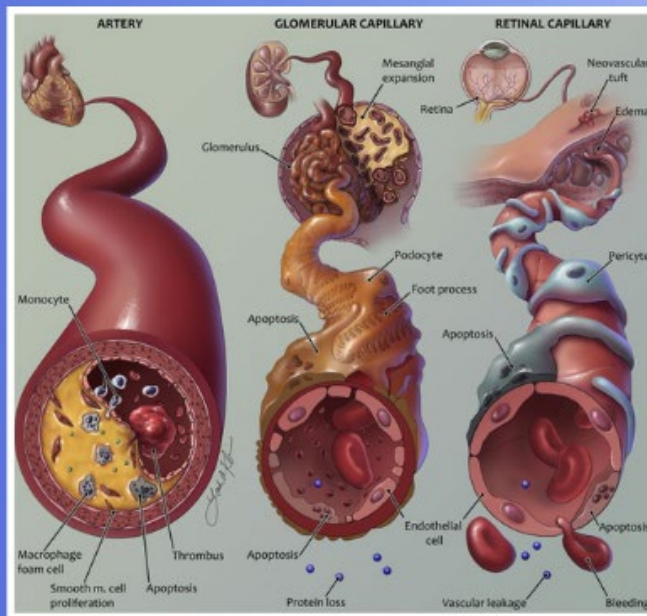


A small cut on the foot can become a serious infection that could require amputation if left untreated.

“Pain is the gift that nobody wants” - Dr. Paul Brand



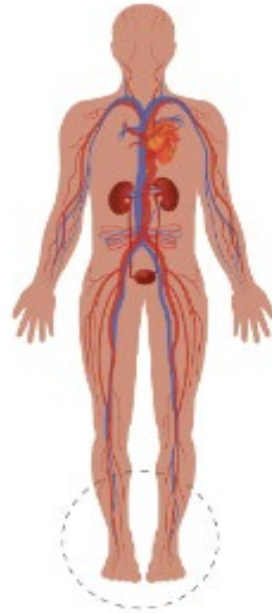
About **50% of patients with critical limb ischaemia (CLI)** the advanced stage of PAD associated with lower-extremity amputation and significant mortality, also have diabetes and they fare worse than non-diabetics.



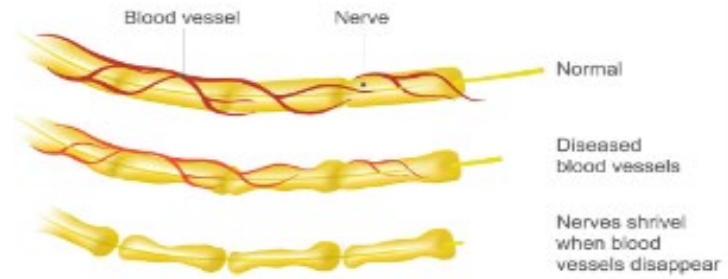
DIABETES VASCULAR
COMPLICATIONS

Diabetes Affects

(reduced blood flow and damaged nerve)



Diabetes Affects the Nerves



Diabetes Foot Ulcers

Normal Skin

Skin Ulceration



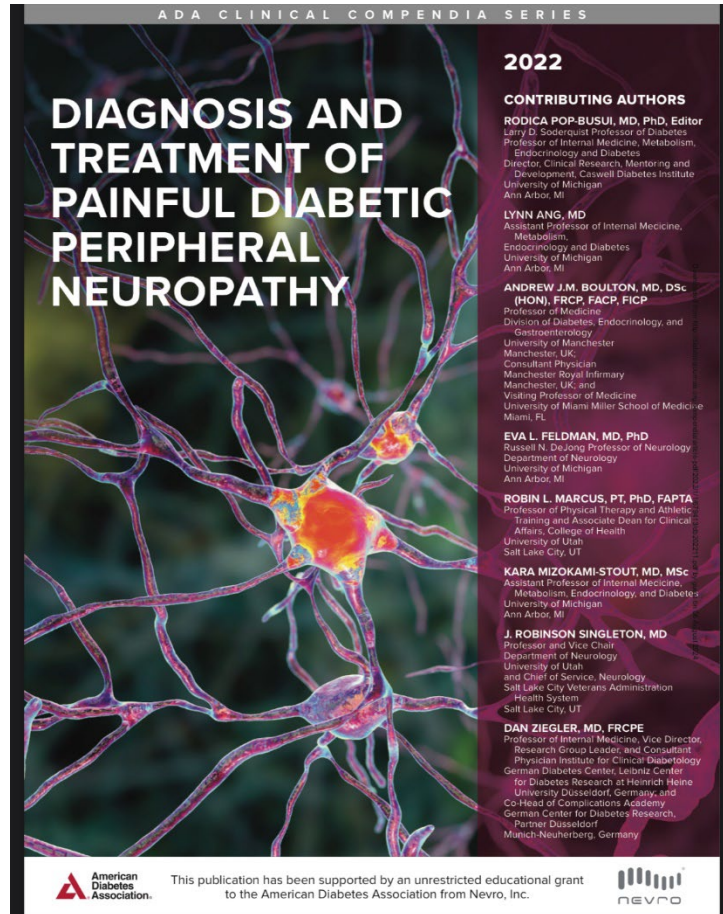
Diabetes Affects the Blood vessel

Reduced blood flow

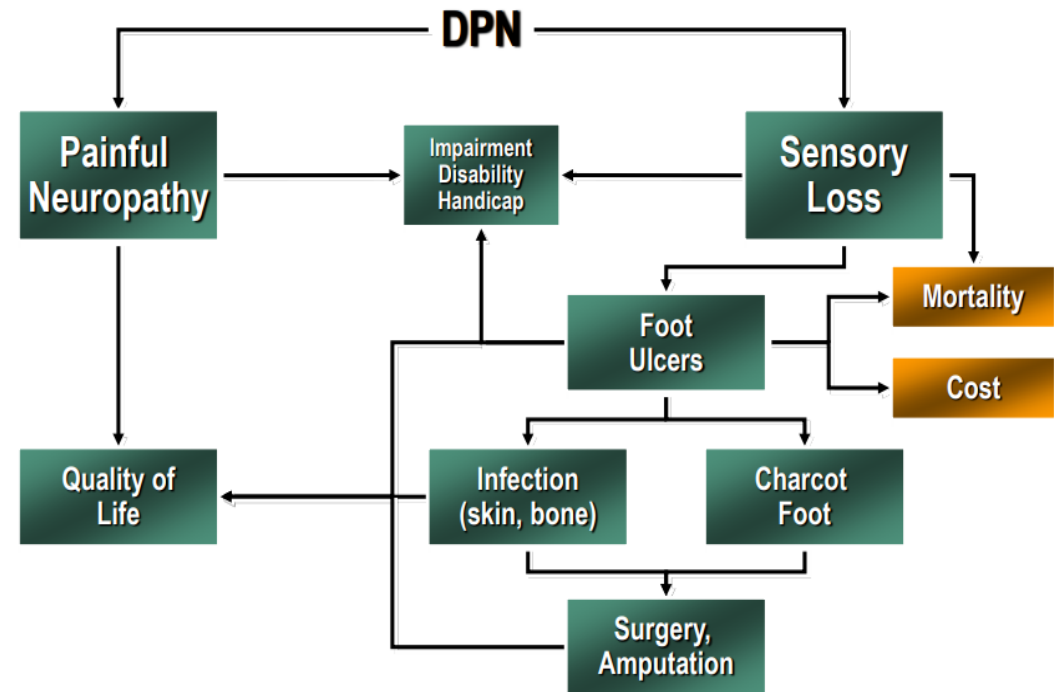
Healthy blood flow



“Pain” versus the “Loss of Sensation”



Clinical Impact of DPN TOTAL Symptoms



Clinical Signs of Diabetic Neuropathy

TABLE 1 Symptoms and Clinical Signs of Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy

| | Symptoms | Function | Signs on examination (clinically diagnostic)* |
|--------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Large, Myelinated Nerve Fibers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbness • Tingling • Poor balance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pressure • Balance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ankle reflexes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced • Absent • Vibration perception:* • Reduced • Absent • 10-g monofilament sensation:* • Reduced • Absent • Proprioception: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impaired |
| Small Nerve Fibers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burning • Electric shocks • Stabbing • Hyperalgesia • Allodynia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nociception • Protective sensation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thermal (cold/hot) discrimination:* • Reduced • Absent • Pinprick sensation:* • Reduced • Absent |

*Document impairment/loss in symmetrical, distal-to-proximal pattern.

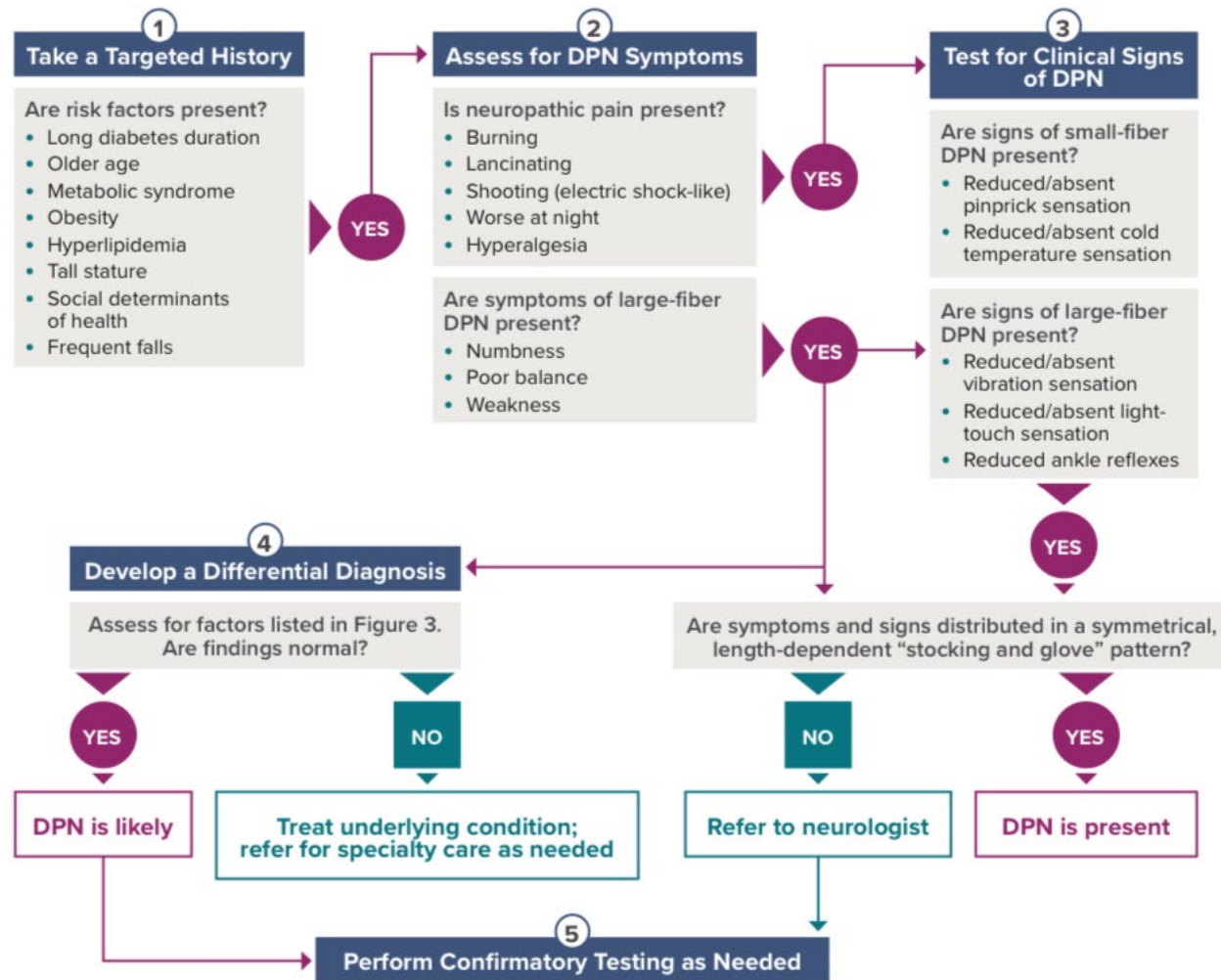
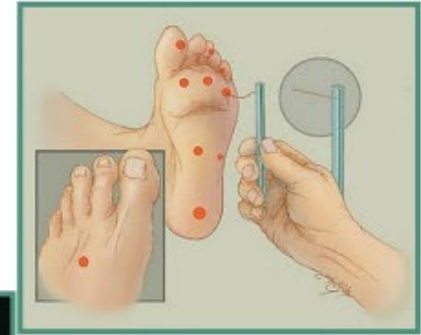


FIGURE 4 A stepwise approach to screening and diagnosing diabetic peripheral neuropathy.

Diagnostic Tools for DPN: Large Fiber

- 5.07 Semmes-Weinstein Monofilament
- Biothesiometer[®]
- Calibrated Tuning Fork
- Nerve Conduction Velocity



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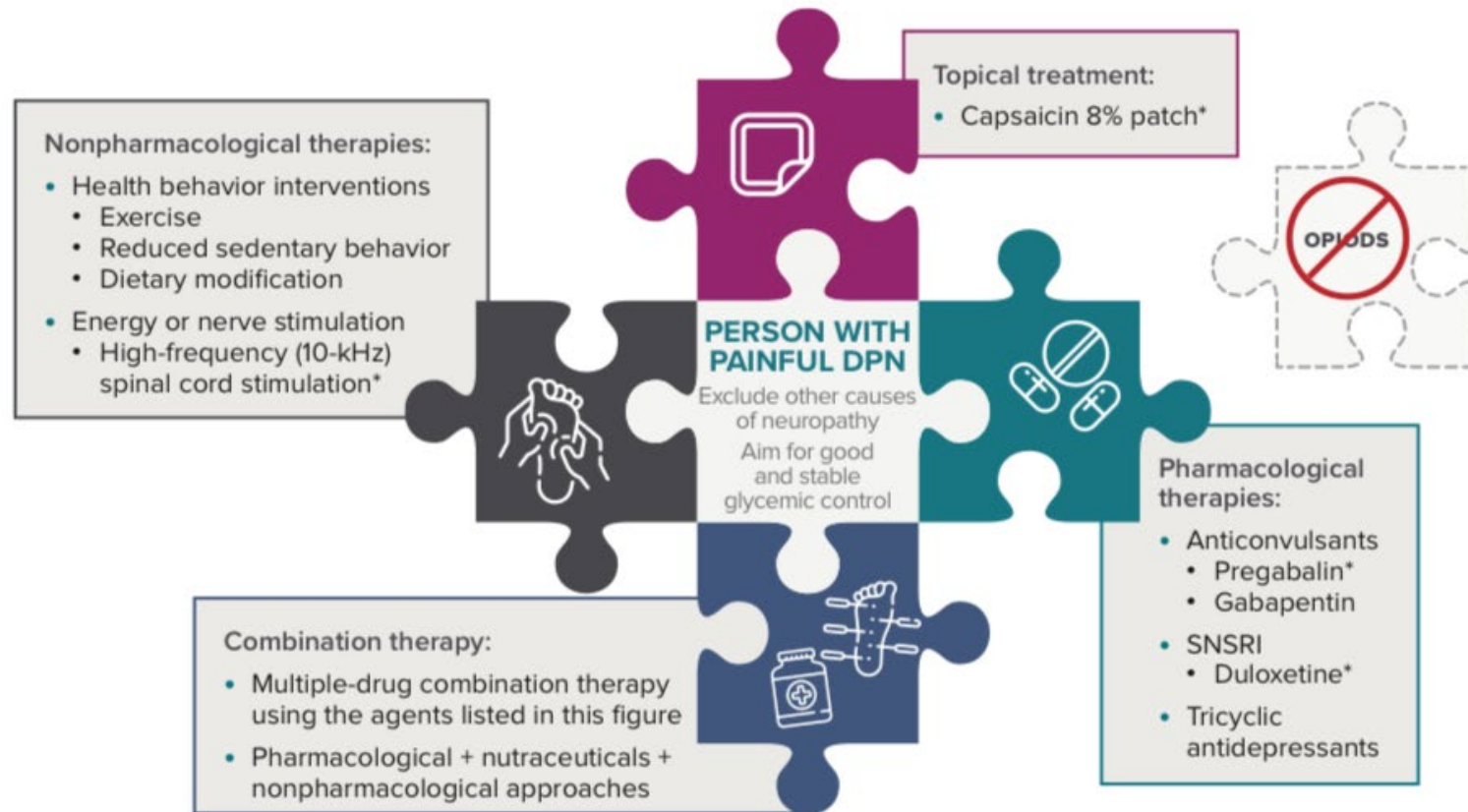
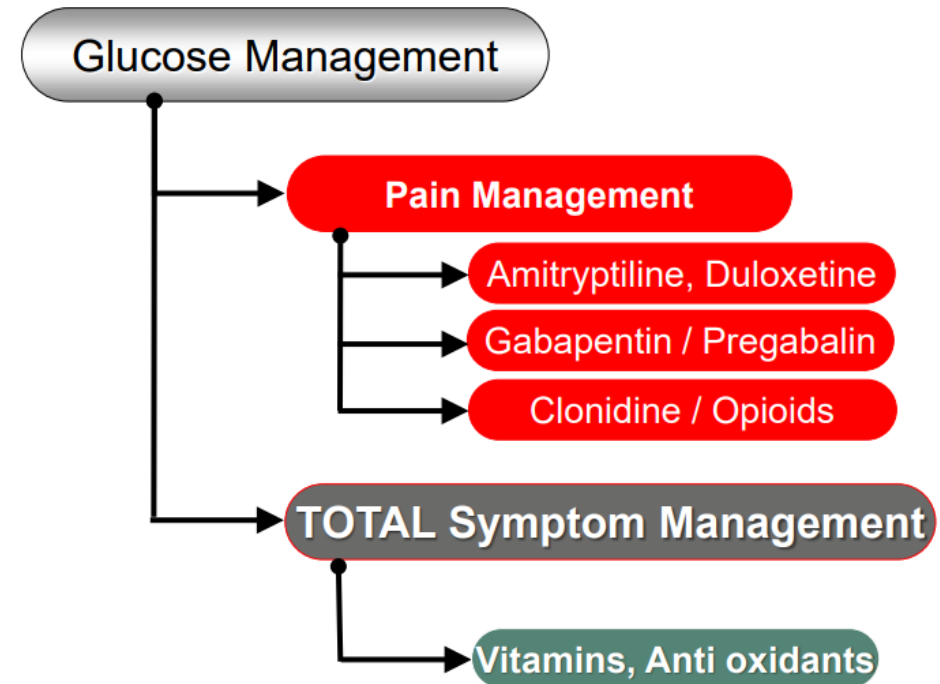


FIGURE 8 Recommended therapeutic approaches to painful diabetic peripheral neuropathy. Pharmacological therapy selection should be individualized based on factors such as comorbidities, cost, potential drug-drug interactions, and potential for adverse effects. Opioids are not recommended because of their high risk of addiction, abuse, and adverse effects. Topical capsaicin and a variety of nonpharmacological approaches are also available, and combination therapy may be needed. Not depicted are the nutraceuticals α -lipoic acid and benfotiamine, which are used in some countries but not approved in the United States. Individuals with severe pain that is refractory to other therapies should be referred to a specialist pain clinic. *U.S. Food and Drug Administration–approved for the treatment of painful diabetic peripheral neuropathy. SNSRI, selective norepinephrine and serotonin reuptake inhibitor.

Treatment Options for Diabetic Neuropathy

- Pain medications.
- Anti-seizure medications.
- Antidepressants.
- **Topical creams.**
- **Transcutaneous electronic nerve stimulation (TENS) therapy.**
- **Hypnosis.**
- **Relaxation training.**
- **Biofeedback training.**
- **Acupuncture.**

DPN Treatment Options



Reversal of Neuropathic Pain in Diabetes by Targeting Glycosylation of Ca_v3.2 T-Type Calcium Channels

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Abstract

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It has been established that Ca_v3.2 T-type voltage-gated calcium channels (T-channels) play a key role in the sensitized (hyperexcitable) state of nociceptive sensory neurons (nociceptors) in response to hyperglycemia associated with diabetes, which in turn can be a basis for painful symptoms of peripheral diabetic neuropathy (PDN). Unfortunately, current treatment for painful PDN has been limited by nonspecific systemic drugs with significant side effects or potential for abuse. We studied in vitro and in vivo mechanisms of plasticity of Ca_v3.2 T-channel in a leptin-deficient (*ob/ob*) mouse model of PDN. We demonstrate that posttranslational glycosylation of specific extracellular asparagine residues in Ca_v3.2 channels accelerates current kinetics, increases current density, and augments channel membrane expression. Importantly, deglycosylation treatment with neuraminidase inhibits native T-currents in nociceptors and in so doing completely and selectively reverses hyperalgesia in diabetic *ob/ob* mice without altering baseline pain responses in healthy mice. Our study describes a new mechanism for the regulation of Ca_v3.2 activity and suggests that modulating the glycosylation state of T-channels in nociceptors may provide a way to suppress peripheral sensitization. Understanding the details of this regulatory pathway could facilitate the development of novel specific therapies for the treatment of painful PDN.

Endocannabinoid activation of CB₁ receptors contributes to long-lasting reversal of neuropathic pain by repetitive spinal cord stimulation

L. Sun, L. Tai, Q. Qiu, R. Mitchell, S. Fleetwood-Walker, E.A. Joosten, C.W. Cheung 

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Conflicts of interest

None declared.

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Abstract

Background

Spinal cord stimulation (SCS) has been shown to be effective in the management of certain neuropathic pain conditions, however, the underlying mechanisms are incompletely understood. In this study, we investigated repetitive SCS in a rodent neuropathic pain model, revealing long-lasting and incremental attenuation of hyperalgesia and a mechanism of action involving endocannabinoids.

Method

Animals were implanted with monopolar electrodes at the time of partial sciatic nerve injury. Dorsal columns at spinal segments T12/13 were stimulated 3 days later (early SCS), and again at day 7 (late SCS) using low-frequency parameters. Hypersensitivity to cutaneous mechanical stimuli was assessed using von Frey filaments. Pharmacological agents, selected to identify endocannabinoid and opioid involvement, were administered intraperitoneally, 10 min before SCS.

Results

Early SCS caused partial reversal of mechanical hypersensitivity with corresponding changes in the biomarker of central sensitization, [phospho-Tyr¹⁴⁷²]-GluN2B. The partial reversal of hyperalgesia by early SCS was amplified by co-administration of LY 2183240, an inhibitor of endocannabinoid reuptake/breakdown. This amplification was inhibited by a CB₁R antagonist, AM251, but not by a CB₂R antagonist, AM630. Early SCS-induced



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Nick Dolding

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Thank You!!!