



Warts and Water

Have you ever had a wart? You don't want one! They are pesky and difficult to get rid of and unfortunately, we see an increase in warts in the summer. Not that the warts flourish in the warm temperatures, but we are more easily exposed to warts because we are more likely to be barefoot!

My daughters loves to be barefoot. Even in the winter, they rip their socks off as soon as possible. They can run faster without them. I am always hassling them to put their shoes on when they go play in the yard. My middle child, Nora, runs around barefoot outside just to spite me!

Children love to spread germs. Warts are a virus that can live on surfaces. So, if a child has a wart and they are running around a pool, a splash pad, a water park, a grandparent's patio, they are shedding wart virus to share with any other barefoot that comes along.

For this reason, I am a huge fan of water shoes. When you start young, it becomes a habit though kids are kids and they may not comply. Do the best you can! Check the feet often, the earlier a wart is detected, the faster and easier they are treated. If someone in the family has a wart, check everyone in the household. A wart will look like a small bump, often with small black dots. They are not always painful.

We treat a lot of warts in children and adults and use the least invasive approach possible. Our goal is not only to get rid of the wart but keep you as comfortable as possible during the process.

About the Doctor

Lucy Meier, DPM



Dr. Lucy Meier is a Wisconsin native and grew up on a strawberry farm in Sturgeon Bay. She aspired to be a foot

doctor since she was twelve years old. She attended the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse before going to podiatry school at Rosalind Franklin University in North Chicago. She completed three years of surgical training at Legacy Wheaton Franciscan Hospitals, here in Milwaukee. She loves to teach and is currently the Assistant Director for the Foot and Ankle Surgery Residency Program at Ascension Hospitals in SE Wisconsin. Dr. Meier is a proud mom of 3! When she has time to herself, she loves to read history, specifically presidential biographies!





When Morton's Neuroma Becomes Your Neuroma

Morton's neuroma is a small, benign mass of thickened nerve tissue in the ball of the foot, primarily between the third and fourth toes. Compression and irritation of the nerves produce tingling, numbness, and pain when that area bears weight — some describe the sensation like stepping on a pebble ... every step. Swelling also adds to the occasion.

Women are nearly 10 times more susceptible to Morton's neuroma than men, with women in their 30s and 40s afflicted the most. The primary culprit is poorly fitting shoes such as high heels, which transfer weight to the front of the foot, spiking pressure in that region. Narrow, tight toe boxes put the squeeze on feet from the sides.

In addition to poorly fitting shoes, flat feet (overpronation) may contribute to Morton's neuroma. High arches, hammertoes, and bunions also create unnatural pressure on the ball of the foot. Repeated physical activity can do the trick, too. Examples include runners, tennis players, ballet dancers, and people whose jobs require them to stand on their feet all day. And we can't forget injuries.

In early stages, Morton's neuroma symptoms may be relieved temporarily by avoiding the offending activities or footwear, or even applying a quick foot massage. However, without treatment, the discomfort will get progressively worse.

Persistent discomfort warrants an appointment at our office. The earlier we see you, the greater chance conservative measures have of being successful.

Morton's neuroma treatments include eliminating ill-fitting shoes, activity modification, stretching exercises, taping and padding, orthotics, anti-inflammatory medications, and injection therapies. An exciting treatment option is extracorporeal pulse activation technology, although most insurances don't cover it yet. Surgery is a last resort to restore quality of life.

Mark Your Calendars

- June 3** National Doughnut Day: Don't try eating a batting doughnut. A bit tough ... and heavy.
- June 6** D-Day: Normandy's Mont-Saint-Michel Abbey is France's second-most visited tourist site.
- June 14** Flag Day: There are six American flags planted on the moon.
- June 19** Father's Day: (Dad joke) Two fathers walked into a bar. The third one ducked.
- June 19** Juneteenth: On June 19, 1865, General Orders No. 3 freed those still enslaved in Texas.
- June 21** Summer solstice: The Eiffel Tower grows 6 inches over summer (thermal expansion).
- June 27** Sunglasses Day: Look for a "UV 400" or "blocks 99–100% of UVA/UVB rays" label.



Fishing for a Father's Day Gift

Many dads value quality time with family above any other Father's Day gift. Fishing fits the bill, and its healthful aspects are numerous ... and frequently overlooked.

Fishing can be a good, low-impact workout. Many times, a short hike is required to reach a desired fishing destination. Some forms of fishing — for instance, fly-fishing — can be vigorous. Heading out on a canoe or kayak provides a nice cardio session.

The fresh outdoor air gives lungs a chance to flush out the pollutants. Sunshine is the best source of vitamin D, which boosts the immune system, brain, and central nervous system; aids in processing calcium efficiently; helps regulate the sleep cycle, and more. Fifteen minutes per day is all it takes; after the 15, don't forget the hat and sunscreen.

Immersing yourself in nature exposes you to higher amounts of negative ions, especially around flowing water sources like streams, creeks, rivers, or the ocean. Negative ions are charged particles that have been found to reduce levels of depression in some people, increase metabolism of carbohydrates and fats, and kill or impede the growth of harmful bacteria.

Studies have shown that angling has a mindful, meditative effect on the brain, which can improve concentration and focus. Those with ADHD can benefit after just one outing.

And if you keep your catch for a future meal, fish are packed with essential nutrients such as omega-3s, vitamin B12, protein, "good" cholesterol, and a touch of vitamin D. Your heart, eyes, blood cells, and DNA will thank you.

Finally, fishing is an excellent time for bonding and shared experiences — like the 18-inch trout that got away ... and increases in size each year. Happy Father's Day!



Mediterranean Inspiration for Father's Day Brunch

Here is a Mediterranean-inspired Father's Day brunch item that will hit the spot — and beats a new tie!

Ingredients

- 4 slices sourdough and chosen spread
- 1/2 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- 8–10 oz. baby plum tomatoes — sliced into halves
- 4 large eggs
- 2 tsp. milk
- Red chili, sliced
- 2 oz. feta cheese (more if you like)
- 2 oz. chorizo slices
- Handful flat-leaf parsley — roughly chopped
- Black pepper

Directions

1. Toast your sourdough and cover with your chosen spread.
2. Quickly fry the baby plum tomatoes in extra-virgin olive oil, scramble your eggs spiked with the fresh chili slices, and quickly crisp up the chorizo.
3. Load up the sourdough with the chili scrambled eggs, crumble the feta over top, and top with crispy chorizo. Serve with a side of fried baby plum tomatoes.
4. Sprinkle the whole lot with freshly chopped parsley and cracked black pepper.
5. Serve your brunch to a pleased father.

Note: As an alternative, you can go veggie and skip the chorizo, swap the chorizo for crispy bacon, or skip the chili if you don't like heat.

Recipe courtesy of www.morocco-gold.com.





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Tiptoeing Through the Early Years

Toe walking is a common occurrence with young children. Toe walkers literally walk on their tiptoes and balls of the feet; their heels never strike the ground. Conversely, they typically run in normal fashion.

Toe walkers generally don't feel any pain, and most outgrow it shortly after exiting their toddler years. Some might continue out of habit. If kids are still doing it past age 3, there are potential consequences — for instance, pain, stiffness, and tightening of the Achilles tendon; ankle stiffness; and a widening of the forefoot.

The origin of toe walking is frequently unknown ("idiopathic"). In roughly one-third of cases, there is a family history. Sometimes there is a physical cause, such as a short Achilles tendon or calf muscles. In a small percentage of cases, toe walking might be a sign of an underlying sensory, muscular, or neurological disorder.

If your child is toe walking past their third birthday, give our office a call. We'll ask you some questions, observe your child walking, and perform a physical exam that will include determining their range of motion and gauging their muscle tone.

Kids who appear to be toe walking out of habit and show no ill effects will likely not require treatment. They'll outgrow it eventually. If there is a physical issue, gentle stretching, special shoes, physical therapy, a leg brace or splint, and custom orthotics are among the treatment options. Surgery is the backup plan if conservative measures fall short.

If we suspect an underlying disorder outside the realm of podiatry, we will steer you in the right direction.

