

Weight-Bearing Activity: Links to Diabetic Foot Health in Native Americans



Long-term hyperglycemia contributes to peripheral neuropathy affecting nearly half of the 18 million people in the United States with diabetes. Diabetic sensorimotor polyneuropathy (DSPN) with its diffuse sensory, motor, and autonomic neuropathy causes lower limb abnormalities that raise the risk for diabetic foot ulcers (DFU) and, ultimately, limb amputations. Because Native Americans are 2.43 times more likely to develop diabetes than the general population, it is of critical importance to gain insight into factors that affect DFU risk in this population.

Reducing health disparities by
preventing or delaying diabetes in
American Indians and Alaskan
Natives.

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The purpose of this study to determine correlates on which to base further research and intervention strategies. A descriptive study is proposed comparing Native American individuals with histories of varying levels of weight bearing activity (WBA) on variables of significance to foot sensation.