



Home → Health Topics → Heel Injuries and Disorders

URL of this page: <https://medlineplus.gov/heelinjuriesanddisorders.html>

Heel Injuries and Disorders

Heel problems are common and can be painful. Often, they result from too much stress on your heel bone and the tissues that surround it. That stress can come from:

- Injuries
- Bruises that you get walking, running or jumping
- Wearing shoes that don't fit or aren't made well
- Being overweight

These can lead to tendinitis, bursitis, and fasciitis, which are all types of inflammation of the tissues that surround your heel. Over time the stress can cause bone spurs and deformities. Certain diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis and gout, can also lead to heel problems. Treatments for heel problems might include rest, medicines, exercises, taping, and special shoes. Surgery is rarely needed.

Start Here

- Heel Pain [<https://www.apma.org/patients-and-the-public/conditions-affecting-the-foot-and-ankle/heel-pain/>] (American Podiatric Medical Association)

Diagnosis and Tests

- Bone X-Ray [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/bonerad>]  (American College of Radiology; Radiological Society of North America)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/es/info/bonerad>]
- Foot Problems [<https://familydoctor.org/symptom/foot-problems/?adfree=true>] (American Academy of Family Physicians)
Also in Spanish [<https://es.familydoctor.org/sintoma/problemas-de-los-pies/?adfree=true>]
- Search the Foot and Ankle Conditions: Interactive Foot Diagram [<https://www.foothealthfacts.org/foot-ankle-conditions/search-the-foot-ankle>] (American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons)

Treatments and Therapies

- Brisement [<https://www.footcaremd.org/foot-and-ankle-treatments/injections---other-treatments/brisement>] (American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society)
- Percutaneous Achilles Tendon Lengthening [<https://www.footcaremd.org/foot-and-ankle-treatments/ankle/percutaneous-achilles-tendon-lengthening>] (American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society)
- Prescription Custom Orthotics and Shoe Inserts [<https://www.apma.org/patients-and-the-public/conditions-affecting-the-foot-and-ankle/prescription-custom-orthotics-and-shoe-inserts/>] (American Podiatric Medical Association)

Living With

- Foot and Ankle Rehabilitation Exercises [<https://orthoinfo.aaos.org/en/recovery/foot-and-ankle-conditioning-program/foot-pdf/>] (American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons) - **PDF**

Related Issues

- Bone Healing [<https://www.foohealthfacts.org/conditions/bone-healing>] (American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.foohealthfacts.org/conditions/bone-healing?lang=es-MX>]

Specifics

- Achilles Tendinitis [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/achilles-tendinitis/symptoms-causes/syc-20369020?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
- Achilles Tendon Rupture [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/achilles-tendon-rupture/symptoms-causes/syc-20353234?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
- Calcaneus (Heel Bone) Fractures [<https://orthoinfo.aaos.org/en/diseases--conditions/calcaneus-heel-bone-fractures/>] (American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons)
- Cracked Heels [<https://www.foohealthfacts.org/conditions-cracked-heels>] (American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.foohealthfacts.org/conditions-cracked-heels?lang=es-MX>]
- Haglund's Deformity [<https://www.foohealthfacts.org/conditions-haglund%20%99s-deformity>] (American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.foohealthfacts.org/conditions-haglund%20%99s-deformity?lang=es-MX>]
- Medial and Lateral Plantar Nerve Entrapment [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/home/bone-joint-and-muscle-disorders/foot-and-ankle-problems/medial-and-lateral-plantar-nerve-entrapment>] (Merck & Co., Inc.)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/es-us/hogar/trastornos-de-los-huesos-articulaciones-y-m%C3%BAsculos/problemas-en-los-pies-y-los-tobillos/atrapamiento-del-nervio-plantar-medial-y-lateral>]
- Plantar Fasciitis [<https://familydoctor.org/condition/plantar-fasciitis/?adfree=true>] (American Academy of Family Physicians)
Also in Spanish [<https://es.familydoctor.org/condicion/fascitis-plantar-es/?adfree=true>]

Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Achilles Tendon Injuries [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Achilles+Tendon%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Fasciitis, Plantar [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Fasciitis,+Plantar%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Heel Injuries [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Heel%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Osteomyelitis of the Heel Due to Delayed Treatment of a Left... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40055183>]
- Article: Observation of the Clinical Efficacy of Self-Modified Skin-Stretching Device in the... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/39803796>]
- Article: Comparison of instep and non-instep flap in the reconstruction of the... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/38970406>]
- Heel Injuries and Disorders -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Heel%2Finjuries%22%5Bmajr%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+>]

Reference Desk

- Glossary of Foot and Ankle Terms [<https://www.footcaremd.org/resources/glossary>]
(American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society)

Find an Expert

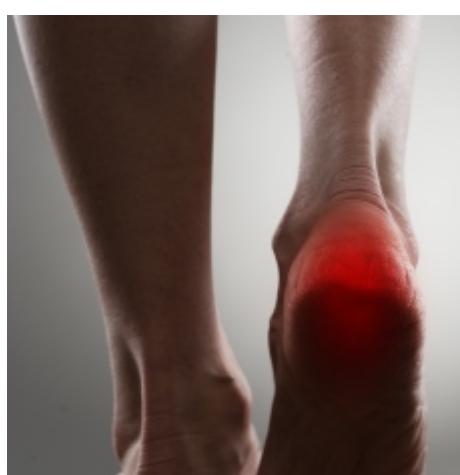
- American Podiatric Medical Association [<https://www.apma.org/>]
- National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases [<https://www.niams.nih.gov/>] 

Children

- Don't Ignore Your Kid's Heel Pain [<https://www.foothealthfacts.org/article/don-t-ignore-your-kid-s-heel-pain>] (American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons)
- Sever's Disease [<https://familydoctor.org/condition/severs-disease/?adfree=true>] (American Academy of Family Physicians)
Also in Spanish [<https://es.familydoctor.org/condicion/enfermedad-de-sever-es/?adfree=true>]

Patient Handouts

- Achilles tendinitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001072.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001072.htm>]
- Achilles tendon repair [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007643.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/007643.htm>]
- Achilles tendon rupture - aftercare [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000546.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000546.htm>]
- Bursitis of the heel [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001073.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001073.htm>]
- Heel pain [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003181.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003181.htm>]
- Heel pain and Achilles tendonitis -- aftercare [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000836.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000836.htm>]
- Plantar fasciitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007021.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/007021.htm>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Achilles tendinitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001072.htm>]

Achilles tendon repair [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007643.htm>]

Achilles tendon rupture - aftercare [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000546.htm>]

Bursitis of the heel [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001073.htm>]

Heel pain [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003181.htm>]

Heel pain and Achilles tendonitis -- aftercare [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000836.htm>]

Plantar fasciitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007021.htm>]

Related Health Topics

[Foot Health](https://medlineplus.gov/fooothalth.html) [<https://medlineplus.gov/fooothalth.html>]

[Foot Injuries and Disorders](https://medlineplus.gov/footinjuriesanddisorders.html) [<https://medlineplus.gov/footinjuriesanddisorders.html>]

MedlinePlus links to health information from the National Institutes of Health and other federal government agencies. MedlinePlus also links to health information from non-government Web sites. See our [disclaimer](https://medlineplus.gov/disclaimers.html) [<https://medlineplus.gov/disclaimers.html>] about external links and our [quality guidelines](https://medlineplus.gov/criteria.html) [<https://medlineplus.gov/criteria.html>] .

The information on this site should not be used as a substitute for professional medical care or advice. Contact a health care provider if you have questions about your health.

[Learn how to cite this page](#)

National Library of Medicine 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20894 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Institutes of Health

Last updated January 3, 2017