



MCDOWELL PODIATRY GROUP

TREATMENT OF THE FOOT AND ANKLE

News and Updates *July 2016*



# Feeling the Pinch: Tarsal Tunnel Syndrome



## About the Doctor

McDowell Podiatry is very proud to announce the addition of Dr. Stephen Medawar to our family of podiatrists. Dr. Medawar has been a practicing surgical podiatrist in the Sacramento area for over 35 years. For the last 15 years he has served as Associate Clinical Professor at the University of California Davis Medical Group.

He is a graduate of University of California Davis and from the California College of Podiatric Medicine in 1980.

Dr. Medawar's primary focus is to relieve pain and deformity. He believes the practice of medicine should be very personal. He uses drawings, models and pertinent literature to illustrate his patients' condition. During patient discussions, Dr. Medawar provides options for treatment and explains the importance of patients' daily participation in their treatment program.

Dr. Medawar's clinical interests include reconstruction of the great toe joint, surgical biomechanics and conservative treatment to improve function and decrease pain.

Outside of the office Dr. Medawar enjoys the great outdoors hunting and fishing with his family.

Dr. Medawar has a reputation for being one of the finest podiatrists in the Sacramento region. He will join us on July 11, 2016. Appointments for Dr. Medawar are now being taken at 916-961-3434.

Right about now, mid-summertime, you might be fighting the good fight against those pesky moles tunneling through your lawn, but did you know you have tunnels in your own body that could be having some pesky problems of their own?

The tarsal tunnel lies on the inside of the ankle bone and houses tendons, veins, arteries and nerves, including the posterior tibial nerve. When this nerve becomes compressed, or "pinched," it can cause tingling, burning, numbness, and pain along its path, from the ankle through the foot.

A close cousin of the more commonly known carpal tunnel syndrome, tarsal tunnel syndrome occurs as a result of injuries, like ankle sprains, or diseases, like arthritis, that cause swelling and place pressure upon the nerve. Those with flat feet are especially prone to the problem, as their heels tend to tilt outward, again placing pressure upon and squeezing the nerve.

If you're feeling the pinch of tarsal tunnel syndrome, forget about your lawn care and take a load off to rest your foot. Ice and medication can help reduce pain and swelling. You may find orthotics that provide arch support helpful, as well as physical therapy. Casts and braces that restrict movement may also be beneficial, and in severe cases, surgery is an option.

Want to learn more? Ask our friendly staff—they're always happy to help!

# Fit Summer Feet



Just like the rest of your body, your feet can benefit from exercise too! Strengthening the muscles in your feet can help prevent injuries and other issues, as well as keep you active and able to enjoy your summer fun. Try these tootsie toners on for size:

**Train Those Toes** – lift each toe one at a time while keeping the others flat on the floor—it's tricky, alright!

**Froggy Feet** – spread your toes and keep them like that for a count of 10, then repeat.

**Get Your Grip On** – use your toes to pick things up—for example, a sock, marbles, a pencil, or a towel. Bonus: cleaning up clutter while you work out your feet!

**Flex Time** – Since you now have a towel, you may as well sling it around your foot while sitting on the floor with legs extended. Pull the ends of the towel toward you to flex your foot until you feel the stretch, then switch.

**Tip Toe Around** – here's a fun one: simply walk around on your tip toes to get your feet in tip-top shape!

Who knew fitness for your feet could be so easy? With these simple exercises, your feet will be strong and healthy all summer long!

## Mark Your Calendars

- July 4** Independence Day—celebrate the Stars and Stripes.
- July 6** National Fried Chicken Day—perfect for a picnic!
- July 8** Video Games Day—escape the summer sun for some indoor fun.
- July 20** National Lollipop Day—we're suckers for this one!
- July 23** National Hot Dog Day—pass the ketchup, please.
- July 30** National Cheesecake Day—another great idea for using blueberries!





# Low Impact. Low Risk.



Sometimes you just need a little break! A vacation from work, a snack while studying, or opting to walk instead of drive can all do wonders to refresh your body and mind. Well, guess what? The same is true when it comes to your workout routine. Not only does cross-training keep you from getting in a mental rut, but it can also keep you from getting physically injured, too!

When you intersperse low-impact activities like biking, swimming, rowing, and yoga with high-impact workouts, like running, you reduce your risk of such overuse injuries as plantar fasciitis, stress fractures, shin splints, Achilles tendinitis, and more. That means you avoid pain and problems that could sideline you without having to stop being physically active—it's a win-win!

So, take advantage of the summer weather and go jump in a lake, hop on a bike, or grab a paddle, and avoid injury at the same time!

For more tips and suggestions on how you can incorporate low-impact exercise options into your fitness regimen, just ask us. We're happy to help you stay injury-free!

# Deliciously Different Ideas for Blueberries

It's National Blueberry Month, and what better way to celebrate than with these deliciously different ideas for enjoying the low-calorie, highly nutritious, antioxidant-boosting, body-protecting, heart-healthy super fruit!

**Top it off** – sure, you can sprinkle blueberries over cereal, oatmeal, yogurt or ice cream, but making a brûlée is even better!

**Drink 'em up** – add a handful, frozen or fresh, to your beverage of choice.

**Blend in** – blend blueberries into sauces, dressings, and dips.

**A different take on what you bake** – besides muffins, scones, breads, and pies, why not bake some homemade granola bars?

**Creatively can** – jam is great, but try canning some blueberry BBQ sauce or salsa to spice things up.

We don't know about you, but we're pretty hungry now—blueberries anyone?



## MCDOWELL PODIATRY GROUP

TREATMENT OF THE FOOT AND ANKLE

St. George Medical Center  
6620 Coyle Avenue, Suite 202  
Carmichael, CA 95608  
(916) 961-3434



Visit our website!  
[www.McDowellPodiatry.com](http://www.McDowellPodiatry.com)



No part of this newsletter may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission of the author. No expressed or implied guarantees have been made or are made by the author or publisher. Individual results may vary. Neither author nor publisher accepts any liability or responsibility to any person with respect to any loss or damage alleged to have been caused by the information in this newsletter. Always seek professional medical advice.

# Get Shin Splint Savvy

If your shins are feeling tender and sore with every step of your run, you may have just joined the shin splint club! This common sports injury typically occurs due to overuse, imbalances, or repetitive stress that causes the muscles along your shin bones to become irritated and inflamed.

Biomechanics, a sudden change in training, inadequate warming up, and worn out shoes are most often the culprits behind the problem. Luckily, each of these is easy to fix! First of all, make a point of taking the time to warm up properly prior to your workout. Add duration and intensity slowly—gradual is good! Replace old running shoes when you notice visible wear—every 400-500 miles is usually a good rule of thumb. Lastly, when you get those new running shoes, slip some custom orthotics inside. These are fitted to your unique feet and designed to correct specific issues you may have with your gait.

In the meantime, if you're shins are unhappy right now, you can ease your pain with ice and anti-inflammatory medication, stretching exercises that strengthen the affected muscles, and of course, that four letter word: rest. Take a break from running and go for a swim or bike ride for a change, and remember, don't rush back into your running routine, especially now that you're shin splint savvy!

