



Peripheral Neuropathy

Cancer or cancer treatments such as chemotherapy may cause injury to the peripheral nerves (nerves outside the brain and spinal cord). This is called Peripheral Neuropathy.

Symptoms of Peripheral Neuropathy

- Most often occurs in the hands or feet.
- Weakness.
- Unsteadiness or tripping when walking.
- Muscle cramps.
- Numbness or tingling. These symptoms may be worse at night.
- Sensitivity to touch.
- Change in sensation, for example loss of temperature sensation.

Treatment

Most often these symptoms are temporary and will get better over time. Treatment may include stopping or changing the dose of the medication that may have caused the peripheral neuropathy. Additional treatment is aimed at relieving the symptoms:

- Medication – There are effective medications for nerve pain. Speak to your healthcare provider about what is the best option for your child.
- Physical therapy – may help strengthen muscles and relieve symptoms.
- Integrative therapies – Meditation, relaxation, guided imagery, self-hypnosis, acupuncture and massage can be helpful. Ask your healthcare provider to request this consultation.

Contact Us

For patient care assistance, please call the following phone numbers:

- Jimmy Fund Clinic (617) 632-3270
Business Hours 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday
- Page Operator (617) 632-3352
Off hours: weekdays after 5 p.m., holidays, and weekends
Page pediatric hematology/oncology fellow on call
- Life Threatening Emergencies dial 911