

TIPS FOR PREVENTING AVOIDABLE INJURIES WITH PHYSICAL ACTIVITY



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TIPS FOR PREVENTING AVOIDABLE INJURIES WITH PHYSICAL ACTIVITY



No matter what type of physical activity you partake in, it is possible for injuries to occur. Whether you enjoy taking walks at night, playing sports on the weekends, or training for athletic trials throughout the week, it is important to make sure you are always being as safe as possible.

Perhaps the most common injury that people endure from physical activity is an overall feeling of soreness, caused by overusing the muscles, tendons, and ligaments. When the muscles, tendons, or ligaments are over-stretched, the tissues experience minor damage in the form of microscopic tears. This typically occurs when completing an exercise that the body is not used to, or exercising for the first time after a prolonged period of rest. The soreness may linger for a few days but usually goes away on its own. However, the severity of the damage determines how long the body will need to recover. For more information on how you can prevent severe injuries, contact Shoreline Physical Therapy today.

What Are Some Common Injuries?

At Shoreline Physical Therapy, our licensed physical therapists can guide you through proper exercises, stretches, movements, and body control, in order to prevent future injuries from occurring. Many injuries occur due to improper techniques or overexerting your body. Some of the most commonly sustained injuries include sprains, strains, and tendinitis.

Many people think "sprains" and "strains" are synonymous; however, they have one distinct difference. Sprains occur when a ligament is stretched beyond its limits or torn, while strains occur when a tendon is stretched beyond its limits or torn. Tendons are tissues that connect muscles to bones, and ligaments are tissues that connect bones to one another. Sprains and strains can both range from mild to severe, and even mild ones may take up to 6 weeks to heal. When they become more severe, braces or surgical correction may be necessary. This will require a longer recovery time, up to 8 weeks or longer, and physical therapy treatments will likely be prescribed.

It is important to note that it is in your best interest to have a physical therapist make sure a sprain or strain is fully healed before returning to your normal level of physical activity, as it is common for old sprains and strains to develop again in the future if they have not been properly rehabilitated.

Tendinitis is an overuse injury that causes the tendons to become inflamed. There are several reasons why tendinitis may occur, but whatever the case may be, we know that it has developed as a result of unnecessary amounts of strain. For example, some people may develop tendinitis in their shoulders or elbows because of improper posture. If the neck and back are not properly aligned, unnecessary stress is placed on other parts of the body. Movements in the shoulders and arms are altered as a way to compensate, causing increased strain on the tendons. Tendinitis can be corrected with physical therapy treatments, since PTs are trained in relieving pain, decreasing inflammation, and restoring you to your normal posture, motion, and function.



How Can I Prevent These Injuries?



While it is always a wise decision to consult with a physical therapist, there are some tips you can implement into your personal life as well, in order to decrease your risk of sustaining an injury. These include:

Stretching. This is one of the most important ways to prevent injuries. Your tissues require water in order to be elastic, and stretching helps to bring water into the tissues. This increases muscle flexibility and prevents them from becoming stiff or tight, thus decreasing the chances of them over-stretching and/or tearing.

Hydrating and eating nutritious meals. Did you know that your body is over 70% water? Because of this, it requires water in order to remain supple and function properly. Without adequate water and nutrition, your body's tissues are more prone to over-stretching and injury. Make sure you drink the recommended 8 glasses of water a day, and always keep a water bottle with you when you are working out. If needed, you can also replenish your electrolytes with sports drinks, such as Gatorade.

Staying within your abilities. It is important to train and practice for any physical activity you'd like to try. Start small in the beginning and build up from there. For example, if you aren't used to running but you'd like to complete a 5k, don't start off with 3-mile runs. Begin with a half mile and slowly build up. When you push your body past its current limits, you make yourself more prone to injuries because your body is not prepared for the physical demands being asked of it. A physical therapist can help you understand the limits of your body and can create an exercise plan for you to reach your physical goals.

Using the proper equipment. When engaging in any type of physical activity, it is important to make sure you have the right equipment. For example, running shoes, hiking boots, helmets, and more can help you avoid injury and stay safe while doing the activities you enjoy. They can make all the difference when it comes to preventing injuries.

What Should I Do Now?

If you are suffering from aches and pains, you think you may have sustained an injury, or you'd like to learn more about injury prevention, contact Shoreline Physical Therapy today. **One of our dedicated physical therapists would be happy to meet with you for a consultation and discuss how our different programs can help you remain active and pain-free!**

www.shorelineptnc.com

Discover How To Live Pain Free!

At Shoreline Physical Therapy Sport & Spine Specialists, you will receive hands-on therapy treatments by our friendly, caring health experts during focused and individualized sessions.



1. CALL AND TALK TO YOUR THERAPIST



2. DISCOVER WHY YOUR PAIN HAS COME BACK



3. GET YOUR CUSTOM RECOVERY PROGRAM



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EXERCISE OF THE MONTH

Try this movement if you are experiencing pain.

Help Activate Your Core



SIDE-LYING CORE ACTIVATED LEG CIRCLES

Lie on your side with bottom leg bent and top one straight. Hand flat on floor in front, near your chest. Tighten your lower abdominals to keep your trunk still. Point the toes of the top leg and slowly make small circles first clockwise, then counterclockwise keeping the knee straight ahead or slightly upward. Repeat on opposite side.



CALL US TODAY IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING ANY PAIN AT 910-791-0396

Staff Spotlight



Douglas A. Miller

PT, MSPT, Cert. MDT,
Co-Owner



You can learn more about Doug and watch his introduction video by scanning the QR code or by visiting us online at www.shorelineptnc.com today.

Feel Better By Eating Better!



CANDY CORN SMOOTHIE

- 1 cup frozen mango chunks
- 1/2 cup coconut milk
- 1 frozen banana
- A thumb-sized piece of turmeric
- 1 cup frozen pineapple chunks

Place 2 clear cups in the freezer. Pour the milk into a blender. Slice the banana and add it to the blender. Blend until smooth. Remove the cups from the freezer and spoon the banana mixture evenly into the bottom of each of the cups. Return the cups to the freezer for 5 to 10 minutes. Rinse out the blender. Add the mangoes and turmeric and blend until smooth. Take the cups out of the freezer and spoon the mango layer evenly into the cups. Return to the freezer for 5 to 10 minutes. Rinse out the blender. Add the pineapple, and blend until smooth. Spoon evenly into the cups and serve.

3 Tips To Improve Nutrition In The Fall



Harvest Your Herbs

Herbs tend to have higher levels of antioxidants and other phytonutrients than other types of vegetables. So even though we tend to eat them in relatively small quantities, herbs can add a lot of nutrition to foods.

Become A Soup Chef

Getting into the habit of making a big pot of soup every weekend is a great way to improve your nutrition all week long. If you're using a pressure cooker or slow cooker, they also need very little supervision while they are cooking.

Make A New Fermented Friend

Probiotic foods help to promote the growth of helpful bacteria in your gut. Good gut bacteria can aid in digestion, nutrient absorption, and help you maintain a healthy weight.



DON'T LET YOUR INSURANCE GO TO WASTE!

Do you have a family insurance plan? Have you had surgery this year? Have you used your insurance more than usual? If you answered YES, you are more likely to have a \$0 balance remaining on your out-of-pocket expenses. This means the cost could be minimal or completely covered by your insurance plan.

Let us help you get a head start going into 2022, before your deductible renews again!

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