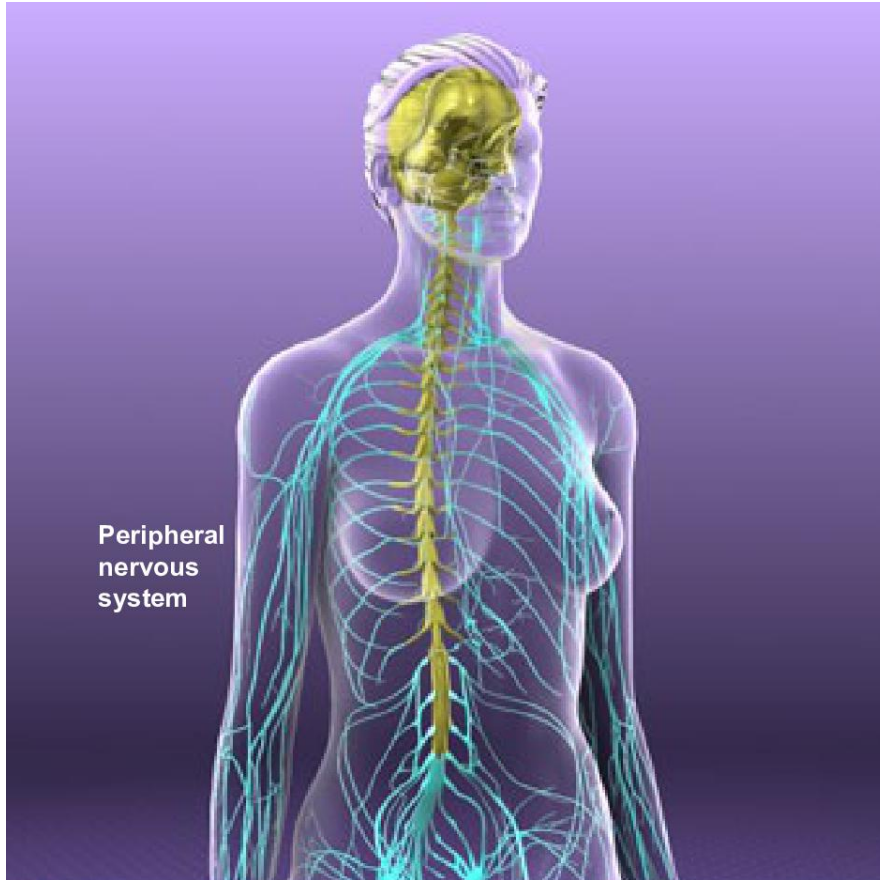




Peripheral Neuropathy



Overview

This condition is a problem with the peripheral nervous system. These are the nerves that branch out from your brain and spinal cord and travel to all of the other parts of your body.

Causes

This condition results from damage to your peripheral nerves. These nerves can be damaged by diabetes. They can be harmed by disorders of the kidneys, liver and thyroid. They can be damaged by infections and by traumatic injury. Alcoholism, toxins, vitamin deficiencies and other factors can also harm these nerves.

Symptoms

Because the peripheral nerves play a role in so many functions in your body, peripheral neuropathy can cause a wide range of problems. You may have numbness, tingling and painful sensations in your extremities. You may have problems with strength and coordination. You may have cramps and spasms in your muscles. You may be sensitive to heat and touch. You may experience problems with your digestive and urinary systems. Your heart rate and blood pressure may be affected.

Treatment

Treatment options vary depending on the cause of your neuropathy. You may benefit from medications. You may benefit from physical therapy, nerve stimulation therapy or other options. Your healthcare provider can create a care plan that is right for your needs.