



# Polyneuropathy and Peripheral Neuropathy

**Peripheral neuropathy** describes damage to the peripheral nervous system, the vast communications network that transmits information from the brain and spinal cord (the central nervous system) to every other part of the body. Peripheral nerves also send sensory information back to the brain and spinal cord, such as a message that the feet are cold or a finger is burned. Damage to the peripheral nervous system interferes with these vital connections. **Polyneuropathy** is the simultaneous malfunction of many peripheral nerves throughout the body. Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS) is a type of acute polyneuropathy and chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (CIDP) is the chronic version of GBS. Please see the Reeve Foundation's GBS factsheet for more info on it.

Sources: NIH, Merck Manual

## Foundation for Peripheral Neuropathy

<https://www.foundationforpn.org/>

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The Foundation is a catalyst for advancing innovative therapeutic developments and accelerating a cure for painful neuropathies by funding collaborative efforts of leading scientists and physicians. They strive to raise awareness of peripheral neuropathy through outreach programs to patients, their families and healthcare professionals.

## GBS/CIDP Foundation International

<http://www.gbs-cidp.org/>

175 E. Elm St.

Conshohocken, PA 19428

Phone: 610-667-0131, 866-224-3301 (Toll-free)

Offers info on chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (CIDP).

## Mayo Clinic: Peripheral Neuropathy

<http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/peripheral-neuropathy/basics/definition/con-20019948>

**MedlinePlus: Chronic Inflammatory Polyneuropathy**

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000777.htm>

**MedlinePlus: Peripheral Neuropathy**

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000593.htm>

**MedlinePlus: Sensorimotor Polyneuropathy**

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000750.htm>

**Merck Manual Home Health Handbook: Polyneuropathy**

<https://www.merckmanuals.com/home/brain,-spinal-cord,-and-nerve-disorders/peripheral-nerve-disorders/polyneuropathy?query=polyneuropathy>

**National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS): Peripheral Neuropathy Fact Sheet**

<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/peripheral-neuropathy?search-term=peripheral%20neuropathy>

**National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS): Peripheral Neuropathy booklet**

<https://catalog.ninds.nih.gov/health-topics/peripheral-neuropathy>

**Neuropathy Action Foundation**

<http://www.neuropathyaction.org/>

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Santa Ana, CA 92705

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NAF is dedicated to ensuring neuropathy patients obtain the necessary resources, information and tools to access individualized treatment to improve their quality of life. The NAF increases awareness among providers, appropriate institutions, the general public and public policy officials that neuropathy can potentially be a serious, widespread and disabling condition, which may be treatable when appropriate medical care is provided.

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