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Relieve Your Arthritic Pains With Physical Therapy

Health & Wellness Newsletter

Are you experiencing pain in your knees or stiffness in your back? Do you find it difficult to move the way you used to? You could be suffering from osteoarthritis.

At Connections Physical Therapy, you can find solutions to your pain and get back to living the life you enjoy!

Osteoarthritis is the most common form of arthritis, affecting nearly 30 million nationwide. Signs of arthritis may include stiffness and pain with squatting, bending, or sitting too long. Pain that is worse in the morning but disappears throughout the day may also be a sign of arthritis. As the condition advances, inflammation leads to pain and loss of motion in the joints.

While arthritis can be debilitating, there's a lot that you can do to alleviate the pain and improve your function. If you are looking to manage your arthritic pains to live more comfortably, the therapists at Connections Physical Therapy can help!

What Is Arthritis?

Arthritis refers to any chronic condition that affects the joints, causing pain and inflammation. The Arthritis Foundation states that there are over 100 different types of

arthritis that exist. *However, the two most common types of arthritis are osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis.*

- **Osteoarthritis** is the most common, and it happens as a gradual breakdown of cartilage in the joints. This can occur from age, injury, or repetitive use of the affected joint(s). When worn down, cartilage can no longer act as a strong cushion and shock absorber for the joints, resulting in bone-on-bone friction and painful inflammation.
- **Rheumatoid arthritis** is the second most commonly experienced form of arthritis and develops as an autoimmune response. When someone has rheumatoid arthritis, their immune system sees the joints as a threat. Because of this perceived threat, the immune system attacks the joints, resulting in pain and inflammation.

Our Goal Is To Help You Reach Yours

[Click here to schedule your appointment!](#)

Stop letting pain get in the way. Give us a call or visit connectionspt.com today!



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What You Can Do To Help Your Arthritis Pain

Regardless of the cause of arthritis, physical therapy plays a significant role in treating its symptoms. Physical therapy should always be the first treatment method before resorting to more aggressive procedures, such as surgery.

In most cases, physical therapy can eliminate the need for more aggressive treatments, such as harmful pain-management drugs or invasive surgical correction. If the condition is severe and surgery is required, physical therapy will help you prepare and recover from your procedure.

In addition to traditional physical therapy treatments, to make sure your pain is managed, it is helpful to incorporate the following into your everyday routine:

- **Getting exercise.** Exercise is vital for relieving pain and maintaining joint function. Cartilage receives its nutrition from joint fluid, so the more you exercise, the better. To avoid additional pressure on the affected joint(s), try non-weight-bearing exercises like aquatic exercises or bicycling.
- **Taking supplements.** Some nutritional supplements have shown promise for relieving pain, stiffness, and other arthritis symptoms. Glucosamine and chondroitin, omega-3 fatty acids, SAM-e, and curcumin seem to help alleviate pain associated with osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis.
- **Avoiding processed and sugary foods.** Fried foods, processed foods, and foods with high sugar content and high fat can cause inflammation in your body and negatively impact your arthritis symptoms.

How Can Physical Therapy Help Relieve Arthritis?

While there is not yet a known cure for arthritis, we know that improving your joint movement, muscle strength, balance, and coordination help reduce your pain and improve your function. At Connections Physical Therapy, we will start with an evaluation and a functional movement assessment to identify all the factors that may be contributing to your pain.

This will consist of a thorough history to understand more about your typical daily schedule and the everyday demands on your body. We want to get an idea of your overall health status, including factors contributing to your condition.

We will use this information to develop a comprehensive program that includes targeted manual techniques, mobility work, strengthening, and appropriate pain relief techniques. We will then incorporate activity-specific treatments with balance and coordination training to ensure your safe return to doing what you love!

Call Today For An Appointment

If you or a loved one is suffering from arthritis, contact Connections Physical Therapy today. We will get you started on a treatment plan that will help restore your mobility, comfort, and quality of life!

Sources:
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Exercise Tips to Help Your Back & Knees

1. Backbends and/or press-ups: We spend most of our lives slouched over. Performing back extensions (back bends) helps offset the time bent over.

2. Glute stretches: Sit with one foot resting on the opposite knee. Gently lean forward until you feel a stretch in your buttock muscles. This is a common area of tension, and this stretch can help alleviate it.

3. Core activation: Try lying on your back and gently press your lower back into the ground without moving your pelvis. Maintain the pressure of your lower back on the floor and alternate lifting your feet off the ground. Learning to engage your core correctly helps reduce the risk of injury.

4. Bridges: Try lying on your back with your knees bent and feet flat on the ground. Strengthening back and butt muscles helps alleviate pain and pressure in your

spine and lower extremity joints. Brace your torso while you lift your buttock into a bridge.

5. Chair squats: Standing in front of a chair and lowering yourself down using your legs while keeping your posture tall until your buttock touches the chair. Then stand up and repeat. Hold a weight on your chest while performing this exercise to increase the intensity. The weight challenges your core muscles and is helpful for the lower back. This simple exercise helps improve your tolerance to climbing stairs, getting up and down from the toilet, and basic everyday tasks.



Physical therapists are movement experts and can teach you the exercises that will help your specific condition so you can get back to doing what you love!

Sources:
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Let's get you better ASAP! Schedule your appointment today!

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**Don't Just Tolerate
Pain, Relieve It!**

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