

T A M P A B A Y ' S

# Health & Wellness<sup>®</sup> MAGAZINE

May 2022

St. Petersburg/St. Pete Beach Edition - Monthly

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**FREE**  

## Lumbar Spine

### Pain:

Symptoms, Causes  
& Treatments

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to Enjoy The  
Woodhouse Day  
Spa in St. Pete

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## BayCare's St. Anthony's Hospital Expands Capacity

With Opening of New  
90-Bed Patient Tower

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# Take control of your health.

## Michelle Ayazo, MD

Board-Certified Family Physician

Dr. Ayazo is a board-certified family physician who attended medical school at Florida State University and completed her residency training at the University of South Florida. Born in Bogotá, Colombia, and raised in Florida, she is passionate about helping patients manage their chronic illnesses with an emphasis on nutrition and exercise. She strives to provide compassionate and high-quality care to all her patients. During her free time, she enjoys outdoor activities, Latin American and Mediterranean cuisine, traveling, and spending time with her family and friends.



## SAME DAY APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE.

Beginning mid-2022, Dr. Ayazo will move to our new multi-specialty facility located on Curley Road near the Watergrass and Epperson neighborhoods. Her office is temporarily located in our Dade City office.



To learn more about Dr. Ayazo at Florida Medical Clinic, contact us today.

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# Dental Implants and Oral Surgery in St. Petersburg, Florida

Experienced, Compassionate Oral Surgery and Dental Implants by Dr. José F. Lázaro in Pinellas County



## Dr. José F. Lázaro

Over the past 30+ years of practicing Oral Maxillofacial Surgery, Dr. Lázaro has received several awards and achievement recognitions and has published articles.



“

"There is no oral surgeon that is better than Doctor Lázaro; he is truly the best. He is very professional; he lets you know that he has your back every step of the way; rest assured that you are in the best hands of Doctor Lázaro. He is all about his patient's care, needs and concerns, and his staff is exceptional as well; they all are polite, respectful, professional, and work as a true team for Doctor Lázaro's patients." –Angie M.

”

## Our Services

We provide oral surgery, dental implant, and wisdom teeth removal services in St. Petersburg, Florida.

### Oral Surgery



Oral surgery encompasses a number of procedures that can address current oral health problems and prevent future issues from occurring.

### Dental Implants



Dental implants are an aesthetic pleasing and functional solution to the problem of missing or damaged teeth.

### Wisdom Teeth Removal



Wisdom teeth removal is a common procedure that alleviates pain and prevents complications caused by incoming wisdom teeth.



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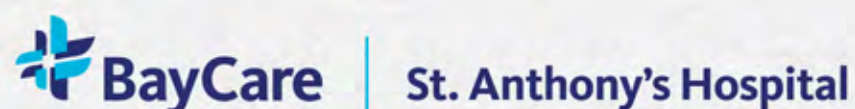
# As our community grows, so does our ability to care for it.

**Our new patient tower is opening soon.**

For 90 years, St. Anthony's Hospital has treated the community with extraordinary, compassionate care. That continues with our newest project: a 90-bed patient tower featuring all private rooms, plus a new lobby and Seventh Avenue entrance. We've also renovated select cardiovascular and respiratory spaces and moved and upgraded the cafeteria and dining area. This expansion will increase our ability to offer even better care and an enhanced patient experience. As the needs of our community grow, so does our commitment to meeting them at St. Anthony's Hospital, the only BayCare hospital in St. Petersburg.



Learn more: [StAnthonys.org](https://StAnthonys.org)





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# BayCare's St. Anthony's Hospital Expands Capacity With Opening of New 90-Bed Patient Tower

*Expansion and Renovations in St. Petersburg total \$152 million*

**A**s St. Anthony's Hospital is in the midst of marking 90 years of providing quality care to the residents of South Pinellas County, BayCare is proud to announce the opening of a new 90-bed patient tower at the hospital to continue its commitment to improve health care delivery in the community.

The new six-floor tower features all-private patient rooms, similar to the addition of the Franciscan Tower which opened on the campus in 2012. The St. Anthony's expansion, which began in 2020, will add approximately 143,000 square feet to the hospital's campus. The hospital is now licensed for 448 beds.

The completion of the tower also will mark the return of the main entrance for the hospital to a site off Seventh Avenue N. And that main entrance includes a covered drop-off area for weatherproof convenience.

The tower project is part of a multi-year expansion, renovation and relocation plan of hospital services.

"The patient tower will enable us to meet the growing health care needs of the community we serve for many years to come," St. Anthony's President Scott Smith said. "Through this project, we also have improved access to care and enhanced the patient experience by adding more private rooms. We wanted to provide a warm environment for our patients and visitors."

Although the tower broke ground just as the COVID-19 pandemic was beginning, the project was able to stay on schedule. "We are grateful to the construction team which followed the safety protocols established by BayCare and St. Anthony's," Smith said. "By keeping the project on schedule, continues our commitment to provide expanded services to our growing community."

All patient rooms are spacious and include a sleeper sofa to keep guests comfortable when visiting their family and friends. The rooms include works from local artists that provide a calm and warm feeling. All tubes are kept behind the headwall so that the room feels more like home than a hospital.



*Photo courtesy of St. Anthony's Hospital: The new St. Anthony's Hospital patient tower, which has 90 all-private patient rooms, is scheduled to open in early May.*

**The project includes expansion, renovation and relocation of hospital services such as:**

- Non-invasive Cardiology
- Cafeteria and Kitchen (moved from the ground floor to the first floor for better visitor access)
- Inpatient Dialysis
- Pre-admission testing for surgical patients
- New classrooms for education
- New electrical plant
- Expanded loading dock
- Three additional surgical suites

St. Anthony's will relocate patient units and services into the new building on a rotating schedule in the upcoming weeks, then renovations will begin in those vacated spaces. More construction is planned near the hospital's emergency center during the remainder of the year.

The architect is Gresham, Smith & Partners, Tampa and the contractor is Robins & Morton, Orlando.



# Florida Medical Clinic Announces a Grand Opening at Watergrass: Dr. Ayazo Sheds Light on What to Expect

**R**esidents of Epperson and Watergrass will be pleased to know that Florida Medical Clinic is opening a state-of-the-art Watergrass facility in the summer of 2022.

We recently caught up with Dr. Ayazo, a respected family physician at Florida Medical Clinic to learn more.

**H&W:** The new Florida Medical Clinic (FMC) Watergrass facility is expected to open in June, can you give our readers a preview of what to expect.

**Dr. Ayazo:** It's a multi-specialty facility with a lab and radiology on site that is sort of a one stop shop for patients.

**H&W:** Have they started taking appointments?

**Dr. Ayazo:** Yes, some patients have already scheduled appointments, but we will be fully operational with a comprehensive team very soon.

**H&W:** Your practice is family medicine with a focus on nutrition and exercise. Tell our readers why you decided to take that route?

**Dr. Ayazo:** During my undergrad, I minored in Nutrition and Exercise Physiology, and it became clear that this was the direction I wanted to go. I wanted to help patients get the results that they were looking for. It's my passion. The obesity epidemic is a major contributor to many problems like Covid, and preventable diseases like Type 2 Diabetes. It's very satisfying to see a patient make improvements in their health.

**H&W:** You have the reputation as a wonderful and caring doctor from your peers. How does that make you feel?

**Dr. Ayazo:** It makes me feel very humbled. We as a group all stuck together through this difficult time battling Covid, and finally coming out the other side, it is very satisfying to know that we are able to offer ongoing comprehensive care.

**H&W:** What's important for our readers to know about you and your practice?

**Dr. Ayazo:** It's important that patients understand that we listen to them, and we will get to the root of the problem with care and consideration. Every



patient is treated with respect and dignity, and our goal as health care providers is to make them understand that we proactively make a plan tailored to their specific needs.

**H&W:** What motivates you as a doctor?

**Dr. Ayazo:** Seeing a patient's face light up when we get the desired results is genuinely motivating. Sometimes conventional medicine may not be working for a patient, and an integrated holistic approach may yield better results. Every case is individual.

**H&W:** Tell me about FMC.

**Dr. Ayazo:** I love it here. They allow us to treat patients with the standard of care coupled with innovative approaches and tailored treatment plans and protocols that suit our patient's needs.

## Florida Medical Clinic

At Florida Medical Clinic, we are dedicated to one very important thing: Keeping you healthy. And that's because we look at healthcare through a simple but very different lens. We offer a comprehensive range of preventative care services and chronic disease management programs to get – or keep – you healthy. All supported by a team of compassionate and experienced medical providers who routinely monitor your health. By proactively identifying gaps in care, we can get ahead of medical concerns before they become medical conditions. This is the kind of healthcare that keeps you focused on what's most important: Enjoying your life.

## SAME DAY APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE.

Beginning mid-2022, Dr. Ayazo will move to our new multi-specialty facility located on Curley Road near the Watergrass and Epperson neighborhoods. Her office is temporarily located in our Dade City office.



## Michelle Ayazo, MD

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## Dr. Ayazo has a special interest in:

- Women's Health
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# Wisdom Teeth: What You Should Know About Your Treatment Options

**D**r. José F. Lázaro has been practicing oral surgery for over 30 years. His expertise and attention to detail set him apart and leave his patients and peers with the highest regard for his skills and knowledge. Dr. Lázaro also has ties to training and educating peers as a key thought leader.

There are many myths versus facts on wisdom teeth and the need for removal at certain ages. Dr. Lázaro recommends the following informative article published by the American Dental Association (ADA) to help patients navigate treatment options.

One major dental milestone that usually takes place between the ages of 17 and 21 is the appearance of your third molars. Historically, these teeth have been called wisdom teeth because they come through at a more mature age.

When they come through correctly, healthy wisdom teeth can help you chew. It's normal to feel a little discomfort when your wisdom teeth appear; however, wisdom teeth predominantly erupt with impaction or other complications and can cause pain and bleeding of the gingival tissue.

## The Issue with Wisdom Teeth

Wisdom teeth can lead to problems if there isn't enough space for them to surface or they come through in the wrong position. If your dentist says your wisdom teeth are impacted, he or she means they are trapped in your jaw or under your gums.

As your wisdom teeth make their way through your gums, your dentist will monitor your mouth for signs of the following:

- Wisdom teeth that aren't in the right position can allow food to become trapped. That gives cavity-causing bacteria a place to grow.
- Wisdom teeth that haven't come in properly, which can make it difficult to floss between the wisdom teeth and the molars next to them.
- Wisdom teeth that have partially come through can give bacteria a place to enter the gums and create a place for infection to occur. This may also lead to pain, swelling and stiffness in your jaw.
- Wisdom teeth that don't have room to come through are thought by some to crowd or damage neighboring teeth.

- A wisdom tooth that is impacted can form a cyst on or near the impacted tooth. This could damage the roots of nearby teeth or destroy the bone that supports your teeth.

## Why You Might Need to Have Your Wisdom Teeth Removed

Every patient is unique, but in general, wisdom teeth may need to be removed when there is evidence of changes in the mouth such as:

- Pain
- Infection
- Cysts
- Tumors
- Damage to neighboring teeth
- Gum disease
- Tooth decay (if it is not possible or desirable to restore the tooth)

Your dentist may also recommend removal of wisdom teeth as part of treatment for braces or other dental care.

## Patients and Referring Dentists

Dr. Lázaro has a state-of-the-art practice with new, innovative, and advanced equipment, software, and technology to serve his patient's oral surgery needs. The office also has conveniently allotted time each day for emergency appointments.

*If you or your patient requires a same-day procedure, please call the office to check for availability.*

## What Kind of Oral Surgery Procedures Does Pinellas Oral Surgery and Implant Center Provide?

At Pinellas Oral Surgery, they provide a wide variety of Oral Surgery and Implant services, which include the following:

- Third molar (wisdom teeth) removal
- Extractions of compromise teeth
- Pre-prosthetic surgery
- Dental implants
- Bone grafting procedures
- BioActive Modifiers (Platelet-Rich Fibrin)
- Ridge augmentation
- Sinus augmentation
- Cone Beam Computer Tomography (CBCT) scans
- IV sedation
- Surgical procedures to aid Orthodontic Treatment

Dr. José F. Lázaro possesses expertise in providing the above procedures in a calm, secure, and safe atmosphere. Dr. Lázaro has developed detailed surgical skills through his years of experience and training. With advanced technology, commitment, and decades of experience in oral surgery, patients can trust that their visit will provide optimal results.

## Patients Always Have a Choice

Deciding on an oral surgeon can be intimidating and overwhelming. How do you know who is the best or will give you the appropriate options and choices concerning your dental care? The best predictor is to hear what other patients have to say. You always have a choice as to who you decide to see.

Source:

ADA.org, <https://www.mouthhealthy.org/en/az-topics/w/wisdom-teeth>

To schedule your appointment, please call 727-467-2759, or visit [PinellasOralSurgery.com](http://PinellasOralSurgery.com).



## About Dr. José F. Lázaro

Dr. José F. Lázaro was born in San Juan Puerto Rico. He attended Temple University for his pre-dental studies and was admitted to dental school in three years prior to receiving his bachelor's of Science Degree. Dr. Lázaro earned his Doctor of Medicine Degree (DMD) from the University of Puerto Rico School of Dental Medicine in 1987. He received his Certificate of Postgraduate education in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery from the University of Puerto Rico Medical Science Campus and Honor Student in June of 1990.

Dr. José F. Lázaro has been active in providing Oral and Maxillofacial services to the Veterans Administration, Private Practice, and has also been involved in Academia for over 30 years.

Dr. Lázaro enjoys participating in big game fishing (tag and release), playing golf, and boating. He lives in Clearwater, Florida, and is very proud of his three children.



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# Top Five Reasons to Enjoy THE WOODHOUSE DAY SPA in St. Pete

**T**he more we become educated on the benefits of staying healthy and inducing overall wellness, many people are incorporating spa services, and for good reason. In days past, it was often believed that a spa service was for the elite or just reserved for special occasions, but in today's fast-paced, stress-inducing world, we now understand that these treatments are beneficial for overall health.

How our spa treatments promote health and wellness:

## 1. De-Stress

**Atmosphere**—To begin with, a relaxing spa visit is a great way to de-stress and calm your mind. Once you walk through our gorgeous wooden doors you will be greeted with our signature blend of essential oils. The scent is designed to immediately put your mind at ease. You will be provided a luxurious robe and reflexology sandals to start your tranquil spa experience in the “quiet room”. All of which attributes to your ability to further de-stress before your unforgettable spa experience.

**Massage**—Following a massage, science has found that the body benefits from increased levels of serotonin and dopamine. This is why many people who suffer from depression choose to regularly treat themselves to a relaxing spa treatment. In these stress-related, pandemic times, we all need a spa day more than ever!

Getting a massage can also provide other health benefits such as deeper sleep, relieves muscle tension, lowers blood pressure, decreases chronic pain, and much more.

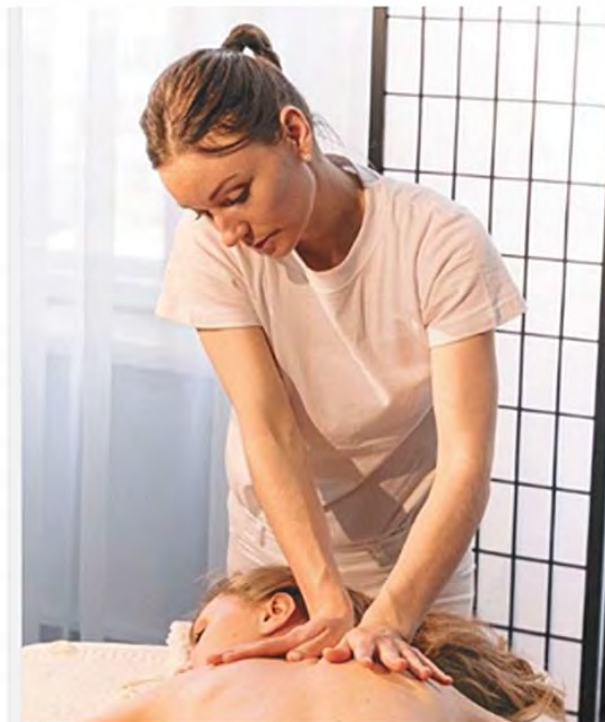
## 2. More Radiant Skin

As we know, our skin ages over time and can take on a dull complexion. As a matter of fact, natural anti-oxidant production in our skin begins to decline in our 20's. Our facials are designed to not only cleanse the skin but to also uncover brighter, smoother, and more radiant skin.

We offer several facials, below are two examples of what sets Woodhouse Day Spa apart:

### THE WOODHOUSE SIGNATURE MINKYTI

Our age-defying, award-winning facial Combining organic seaweed and expert massage techniques



throughout, this facial offers deep hydration, relaxation and nourishment with immediate results. The Minkyti facial includes cutting-edge exfoliation using an integrated blend of AHAs. Great for all skin types to establish and maintain pH balance. Most definitive results are typically experienced with a series of 3 to 6 facials.

### COLLAGEN INFUSION FACIAL

Plump and densify the skin with this collagen booster therapy. Ultra-potent hyaluronic acid, marine collagen and BABOR®'s powerful tripeptide boosts the skin from the inside out, visibly smoothing lines and wrinkles. The results achieved with this treatment are heightened by BABOR®'s indulgent and expert facial techniques using an innovative silver foil mask that intensely hydrates and plumps the skin. The result is visibly improved skin firmness and tone with a youthful, lifted look.

## 3. Relieves Pain

**Pain Reduction**—If you've been experiencing aches and pains, a massage can remarkably help alleviate and reduce numerous painful conditions. Our experienced therapists provide a top-quality massage that can help diminish mild to moderate aches and pains. The scalp massage helps to target areas of pain with the body and assists with reduction of headaches.

We offer several options for massage, below are a few examples:

### THERAPEUTIC STONE MASSAGE

This full-body massage incorporates warm stones with a light- to moderate-pressure massage. Experience this time-honored practice that brings deep, restorative rest. Our massage therapist gently glides smooth stones over the body, providing warmth that soothes the mind and muscles, increases circulation, improves tone, and induces tranquility. Himalayan Salt Stone or Volcanic Stone available by location.

### DEEP TISSUE MASSAGE

This therapeutic massage uses strategic strokes to increase circulation and release muscle tension. A combination of trigger point therapy, stretching, sports massage and other unique modalities works to relieve strain, stress, and inflammation.

### RELAXING BACK, NECK AND SHOULDER MASSAGE

Ease stress with this focused tension-releasing massage. A therapeutic blend of essential oils is applied to remove lactic acid and eliminate chronic deep “knots.” Knead-and-release techniques are used to relax the muscles and increase circulation. Arise relaxed yet invigorated.

## 4. Improves Blood Flow and Circulation

On top of that incredibly relaxed feeling that you get after a massage, it can also benefit our body in that it can improve blood flow and circulation. This helps our body to fend off illness. When our lungs, heart, and muscles are functioning properly the entire body feels better and provides a greater sense of well-being, which leads to the final point...

## 5. Enhances Confidence

When you take care of your body you naturally feel better. Your skin will be glowing after a facial. Your muscles will feel relaxed after a massage. With so many amazing options to treat yourself to at The Woodhouse Day Spa-St. Pete, you will love the relaxing experience and the confidence that comes with it.

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# Lumbar Spine Pain: Symptoms, Causes & Treatments

By: Regenexx Tampa Bay, Regenerative Medicine

**T**he body is an interconnected machine with each part working together in harmony. The lumbar spine is a crucial element of this machine. The hip, knee, and foot are all controlled by spinal nerves within the low back. A problem in the lumbar spine could create problems at any point in the lower body. Common lumbar issues include arthritis, foraminal and spinal stenosis, pinched nerves, disc problems, muscle atrophy, loose ligaments, and spondylolysis. In this article, we will give you a brief overview of these common lumbar spine problems along with their potential symptoms, causes, and treatments.

First, let's take a look at the spinal column and its parts.

## The Spinal Column

The spinal column is made up of vertebrae that are stacked one on top of the other with an intervertebral disc between each level to provide cushion and absorb shock. The cervical spine consists of the neck area and is made up of seven vertebrae (C1-C7). Following the cervical spine is the thoracic spine (T1-T12), the lumbar spine (L1-L5), the sacrum (S1-S5), and the coccyx. The posterior (back) portion of these vertebrae is known as the spinous process and on either side of these, connecting one vertebra to the next, are finger-joint-sized articulations called facet joints.

Another extremely important part of the spinal column is the spinal canal. This tunnel runs down the middle of the column and houses the spinal cord, which has many nerves that transmit muscle commands and sensory information throughout the body and to the brain. There are small holes in the spinal column where the nerves exit and branch off to other parts of the body. There is one at each level of the spinal column. One of these holes is called a foramen. Any of these structures can become damaged or diseased in some way and lead to pain, discomfort, or even disability.

## Foraminal Stenosis

When the spine is healthy, spinal nerves easily traverse through the tunnels transmitting sensory information from each body part to the brain and provide impulses to the muscles so they can contract and move the body part. However, when the spine is unhealthy, the flow of information can be disrupted.

The disc or cushion in between the spine bones can bulge and/or the spine joints can get arthritis causing the foramen to narrow. This narrowing of the tunnel is called foraminal stenosis and can cause the nerves to get pinched. The pressure from a pinched nerve can cause muscle tightness, weakness, numbness, tingling,



burning, or electrical pain in the specific distribution of that nerve. For example, if there is a lower lumbar foraminal stenosis, you could experience numbness in your big toe. Sometimes the symptoms slowly manifest over time from a more subtle pinching of the nerve. If the nerve is irritated, it may release inflammatory substances into the tissue to which the nerve travels causing that tissue to degenerate more rapidly than other areas leading to painful problems such as tendinopathy.

You could have laser spine surgery to open up the hole, but this surgery can have major side effects and serious implications. Another way to surgically treat stenosis is with a spinal fusion, but the mention of a fusion should be a huge red flag to seek out other opinions. Why? Adjacent segment disease (ASD). After a fusion, the motion of the fused segments is limited and the biomechanical loads are transferred to the segments above and below the level of the fusion. These adjacent segments could get damaged and become painful over time resulting in additional surgeries.

Surgery is often performed after an MRI diagnosis of the problem. An MRI indicating stenosis is not enough to appropriately diagnose that stenosis is the cause of pain. If you do have foraminal stenosis, you should not put all your trust in MRI results. Patients may or may not have pain with foraminal stenosis. The MRI is a description of the appearance of the spine. Many people have stenosis and no noticeable problems. An experienced physician knows that it's critical to treat the person, not the MRI. This can be determined by a thorough history and physical examination. Research also shows that skilled physical therapy is as effective as surgery in relieving stenosis symptoms.

Our approach to foraminal stenosis utilizes nonsurgical solutions to treat it before it progresses. Precise image-guided injections of the patient's own platelets into the foramen and around the nerve can help manage the problem.

## Facet Joint Osteoarthritis and Instability

The facet joints that we spoke of earlier can become injured from trauma or develop arthritis from cartilage breakdown due to wear and tear. Facet joints allow for and limit movement in the spine. When bending backward, these joints become compressed and when you bend forward, they open up. When damage or arthritis occurs, facet joints can become chronically painful, especially with movement. Facet arthritis is often referred to as Degenerative Joint Disease (DJD).

For facet arthritis or injuries, doctors may recommend a radiofrequency ablation (RFA) also referred to as a rhizotomy of the small nerve that senses pain from that specific facet joint. This is a destructive process that damages the nerve. Although this can be effective in some cases, it may leave the surrounding muscles weaker which can actually be a cause of back pain.

A surgical option is a lumbar fusion to bolt two or more vertebrae of the spine together to eliminate movement and therefore, pain. The nature of this surgery can also damage the muscles that stabilize the area. This is an irreversible procedure that can cause adjacent segment disease in the vertebrae above and below. This surgery should only be considered in the most extreme cases.

Our approach for DJD often includes high-dose PRP, platelet lysate, or stem cell injections precisely targeting the facet joints, surrounding ligaments, atrophied muscles, and around the nerves. This is a tissue preservation strategy that involves no cutting, surgery, hardware, or tissue destruction helping patients avoid pain medications and damaging cortisone injections.

## Disc Problems

Within the lumbar spine, there are four types of disc problems that can occur. A herniated disc occurs when the outer covering of the structure breaks open allowing the inner gel to herniate out. A bulging disc is when the outer covering doesn't completely break open, but the fibers are stretched and weak leading the gel to bulge. A torn disc means that the outer cover has a tear that causes or it may allow the leaking of chemicals on the associated spinal nerve. Lastly, a degenerated disc is one that has collapsed or narrowed due to insufficient living cells inside the disc not producing enough of the substances that keep the disc plump. A severely degenerated disc is usually not a source of pain unless it's bulging or leaking onto a spinal nerve. Earlier in the degeneration process, while the disc still has plumpness to it, tears in the back of the disc can be a source of low back pain that results in severe episodes of pain with sitting, coughing, sneezing, or lifting. When a disc is severely degenerated, it usually is no longer painful itself. However, the mechanical load of the compressive forces in the spine at that level are no longer being taken up by the disc and therefore get transferred to the facet joints leading to wear and tear and DJD as described above.



Generally, disc surgeries include either back fusions or disc replacement. Regarding fusion, the vertebrae are bolted together with hardware to keep them immobile. With disc replacement, the goal is to have fewer side effects than a fusion, however, research has shown that abnormal motion with an artificial disc can also lead to ASD. The other side effects of having a device implanted include wear-and-tear ions in the blood from the breakdown of the metal or plastic device, ongoing pain, and potential revision surgeries.

With our approach, herniated and bulging discs are treated based on the problem they are causing. For pinched nerves, instilling isolated growth factors or platelet lysate around the irritated nerve can help the nerve recover and become more tolerant of its narrow space. Injection of the surrounding ligaments and muscles provides for stability with better-controlled movements taking pressures off the disc and nerves. In some cases, bulging discs may be treated with a same-day stem cell treatment to reduce the size of the bulge or heal a tear. In other cases, cultured (grown) stem cells injected in a specific way may be required. Torn discs can be treated with either stem cell or PRP injections very effectively. Symptoms respond well to a treatment protocol focused on platelet and/or stem cell technology deployed to treat undesirable disc and lumbar segment movements due to lax ligaments and arthritic facet joints.

#### Pinched Lumbar Nerve

Pinched nerves can be caused by foraminal stenosis from bulging or herniated discs and facet joint arthritis as discussed. A pinched lumbar nerve can cause pain, numbness, tingling, or weakness anywhere along the route that particular nerve branch supplies. Pain may or may not be present in the low back.

Chronic knee pain could actually be due to a pinched nerve in the lumbar spine. A doctor may mistakenly conclude that the knee is the source of the pain. This is exactly why we find it so important to consider the entire musculoskeletal system as a whole rather than in parts and to take an extensive history and physical.

The surgical approach to a pinched nerve depends on the root cause. For example, if a disc bulge is to blame, it could be a discectomy and graft and/or lumbar fusion. If it is a foraminal stenosis, laser surgery may enlarge the foraminal opening where the nerve is being pinched. Problems with invasive lumbar surgery are many, including long recovery times and often continuing pain. Ultimately, the structure never fully functions as it originally did.

Our approach includes examining the full musculoskeletal system to determine the source of pain and the pinched nerve and then developing an appropriate treatment plan. Treatment may consist of precise image-guided injections of healing growth factors isolated from a patient's own blood platelets, PRP, or stem cells.

#### Steroids, NSAIDs, & Other Drugs - Not Recommended

You may be presented with other treatments within the traditional orthopedics model for lumbar problems, including steroid shots or medications.



Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) come with a long and growing list of dangerous side effects, such as sudden-death heart attacks, stroke, gastrointestinal bleeding, addiction, and overdose.

Narcotics can provide pain relief but are not addressing the issue directly and of course, can be addictive. Overdose has become an increasing public health issue.

Steroid shots have been shown to destroy local cartilage in the joint which can progress arthritis and provide no significant long term pain improvement. In fact, pain relief usually diminishes with repeated steroid injections. The list of problems with these injections is also lengthy.

There are supplements that can be a good alternative for pain and inflammation. Chondroitin and glucosamine have been shown to be effective pain relievers and can preserve cartilage. Curcumin derived from turmeric can also decrease inflammation and relieve pain from arthritis and other issues.

Our spines are tuned to precision and attempting to rearrange the spine's biomechanics with fusions and surgeries is often a bad idea. It is essential to understand that where it hurts may or may not be where the primary damage is located.

Acting on a lumbar spine problem while it's still a small problem or when the issue first appears, will be less of an issue than trying to take care of it when it becomes a larger problem that spirals out of control. Conservative options may help in some cases, but if these options have failed, we urge you to seek out interventional orthopedic solutions!



#### Dr. James Leiber

**James Leiber, DO**, is the founder and medical director of Regenexx Tampa Bay. He is a former officer, physician, and educator in the Air Force, including personal physician to the vice president and president at the White House. He is triple board certified in Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine (AOBNMM), Pain Medicine (CAQPM), and Family Medicine (ABFM), as well registered in Musculoskeletal Sonography (RMSK).

Dr. Leiber specializes in Interventional Regenerative Orthopedics with years of experience and is honored to have been the first Regenexx Network Provider in Florida. In 2012, Dr. Leiber began offering the nation's most advanced non-surgical stem cell and platelet treatments (PRP) for injuries and arthritis under image guidance utilizing ultrasound and fluoroscopy (X-ray).



#### Ron Torrance II, DO And FAOASM-

Board Certified in Sports Medicine and recent co-author of *Exercise 2.0* for Regenexx and author of the 2018 best paper of the year on *The Concussed Athlete*. Dr. Torrance has achieved semi-professional ranking as a beach volleyball player and trains as a competitive CrossFit athlete.



#### Ignatios Papas, DO, is a non-surgical

orthopedic physician specializing in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Regenexx Tampa Bay. Dr. Papas has taught courses in musculoskeletal ultrasound to residents across multiple specialties and to medical students at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte.

He is a member of the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine, the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and the American Academy of Orthopedics just to name a few. When he isn't practicing medicine he enjoys spending time with his wife and new baby, playing soccer, practicing guitar, and listening to historical podcast



#### Lisa Valastro, DO - Specializes in

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation with a focus on regenerative medicine via orthobiologics. She received her medical degree from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Erie, Pennsylvania, and her Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation training at Albany Medical Center in Albany, New York. She also completed a fellowship with Dr. Marko Bodor in Napa, California, focused on Spine, Sports, Electrodiagnostics and Regenerative Medicine. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking, kayaking, weight lifting and volleyball.

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# PAINFUL NERVE DAMAGE: HOW ONE PATIENT'S STORY HELPS ANOTHER FIND RELIEF

## Treating Shoulder Pain Successfully with Radiofrequency

**P**aula Sharper and her husband had just recently moved to Florida, and she had been dealing with ongoing shoulder pain for a long time, which seemed to be getting worse. Paula was diagnosed with severe osteoarthritis of the AC joint (acromioclavicular joint) in the shoulder.

Paula told us that the pain was excruciating, keeping her up all night and disrupting her daily activities, including driving. While she was in the waiting room of another physician for her pain, she read an article about Dr. Sunil Panchal and how he helped a woman with chronic pain become pain-free.

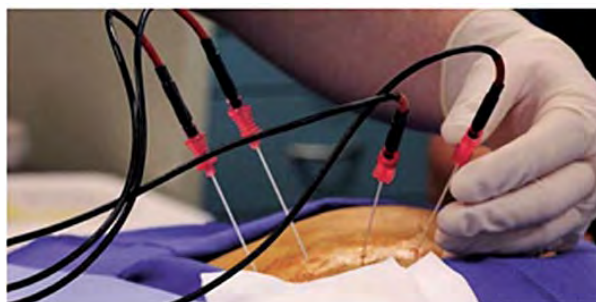
When Paula left the office, she immediately called Dr. Panchal and scheduled an appointment.

Paula explained, "Dr. Panchal is an amazing doctor and a great person. He takes a lot of time and listens to you. He explains everything in detail, and he pinpoints exactly where the pain is stemming from and what is the best option for you specifically."

She continued, "I've been to many doctors over the years, and it's rare to find a physician that is not only a great doctor but also a kind, genuine person that cares about you. My procedure with Nerve Blocks and Radiofrequency was terrific. I immediately had pain relief. My shoulder no longer hurts at all. I'm back to living a normal routine for the most part."

"Dr. Panchal explained that this is a process. He likes to take things in steps, so we are doing the radiofrequency first, and then if later on my pain starts to return and I need additional regenerative medicine such as stem cell therapy, we will go from there. For now, I'm ecstatic about my pain relief. I would recommend Dr. Panchal to anyone that is in pain."

"It's impressive that so many patients and peers speak so highly of Dr. Panchal. At the surgical center, the staff and medical practitioners are very



fond of him and his work. Everyone you talk to says what a kind and talented physician he is as well. Medicine shouldn't just be about temporary fixes, it should be about treating the cause and helping people find solutions. That's what Dr. Panchal offers his patients."

### Surgery is Not Always the Answer

Many people are familiar with radiofrequency ablation for lower back pain, but they don't realize that it can be used for other areas of the body. With shoulder pain, whether due to osteoarthritis or injury, many people believe or have been told that surgery is the only solution.

**Minimally invasive procedures like radiofrequency and nerve blocks offer remarkable results in long-term pain relief.**

### Nerve Blocks and Radio Frequency

Nerve Blocks are numbing medications that are injected into the area that is causing pain. In conjunction to nerve blocks, Dr. Panchal uses an advanced procedure called Radiofrequency (RF).

With RF ablation treatments, the nerves that are damaged, narrowed, or impinged, are injected with a low-level of localized heat, causing the nerve to stop sending signals to our brain through

## The National Institute of Spine and Pain

10740 Palm River Rd, Suite 490, Tampa, FL 33619  
4911 Van Dyke Rd., Lutz, FL 33558

**(813) 264-PAIN (7246)**

[www.nationalinstituteofpain.org](http://www.nationalinstituteofpain.org)

an interruption in the nerve conduction. This procedure is entirely safe and effective. It has been used for many years with long-lasting results for people suffering from nerve back pain.

### Regenerative Medicine

For neuropathic pain, regenerative medicine is also highly effective treatment for relieving pain and regenerating tissue naturally. These options include PRP (Platelet Rich Plasma), Bone Marrow Aspirations, Lipid Aspirations and exosomes.

### More on Exosomes

Always on the leading edge of innovative procedures, Dr. Panchal adds exosomes into his stem cell treatment. Exosomes are produced from the plasma membranes of cells and are best explained as extracellular vesicles. Exosomes are nano-sized particles that are released due to an immune response. Some medical professionals are reporting that they are more regenerative and effective than stem cells. Because they act as intracellular communication messengers within the body and have the ability to move between multiple cells, they are also incredibly useful when paired with stem cell therapy.



**Dr. Sunil Panchal**

Although surgery is critical in certain situations, finding alternative methods to treat the underlying condition is always the first step. The National Institute of Pain is a state-of-the-art facility that specializes in the treatment of spine and orthopedic conditions, as well as acute and chronic pain management. They provide the utmost quality of care for patients to address the problem directly, and if needed, provide for their pain management needs.

At the National Institute of Spine and Pain, they treat each patient individually, using the latest equipment and various innovative procedures to diagnose pain and determine your care needs. The National Institute of Spine and Pain's President and Founder, Sunil J. Panchal, MD, is a board-certified interventional pain/ minimally invasive spine physician.

At National Institute of Spine and Pain, their goal is to strive to deliver the highest quality of comprehensive care for those who are suffering from spine, joint, and nerve injuries. They have many alternatives to help you with your personalized treatment needs. Please visit their website at [www.nationalinstituteofpain.org](http://www.nationalinstituteofpain.org), or call them at **(813) 264-PAIN (7246)**.



# STROKE NUT

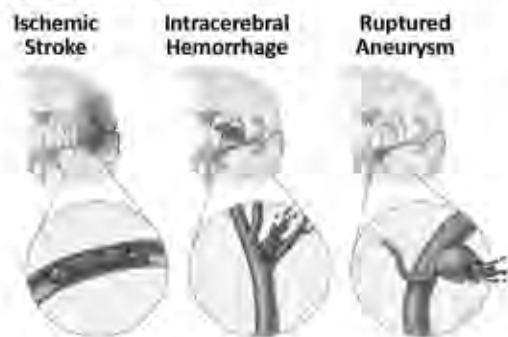
By Nasser Razack, MD, JD

**M**ay is stroke awareness month. There are many actions we can take to impact the future of stroke but none greater than its prevention. Our emphasis must switch from the treatment of the disease to its prevention by promoting better health and well-being.

Inflammation is our immune system's response to attacks on the body by foreign substances. It is a response that enables the body to defend itself by creating a hostile environment to kill unwanted intruders. Inflammation is great when our body is under attack; however, inflammation can also be triggered to attack normal healthy tissue. In this scenario, inflammation still produces a hostile environment within the body, but damages healthy tissue instead of destroying unwanted invaders.

A stroke occurs when blood flow to the brain is interrupted, causing a deprivation of oxygen and nutrients to that section of the body. There are two types of strokes: (1) ischemic stroke caused by blocked arteries that supply oxygen to the brain and, (2) hemorrhagic stroke which results from a leaking or ruptured brain blood vessel (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Types of Stroke



Ischemic stroke accounts for the vast majority (80%) of all stroke cases and can result in the following signs and symptoms: speech difficulties, confusion, vision problems, balance issues, headaches and paralysis or numbness of the face, arm, or leg (Figure 2).

Figure 2. BEFAST to stop stroke in its tracks!

If you think someone is having a stroke, BEFAST and do these simple tests:



Figure 3. Brain Nut

Increasing evidence demonstrates that inflammation plays an important role in the development of cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disease (stroke). A significant cause of inflammation is our diet. Specifically, diets high in red and processed meat, refined grains and sugar-sweetened beverages are all associated with increased inflammation which can heighten the subsequent risk of stroke compared to diets comprised of anti-inflammatory foods. Certain diets such as the Mediterranean diet—abundant in olive oil, nuts, whole grains, fruits, vegetables and seafood with reduced consumption of red and processed meat—can lower inflammation in the body (as measured by inflammatory biomarkers) and thus reduce the risk of stroke. Conversely, diets consisting of refined sugars and grains, fried foods, soda, red and processed meat which promote inflammation (as marked by increased inflammatory biomarkers), had a higher risk of stroke.

Research demonstrates that regular nut consumption is associated with lower cholesterol levels and a reduced risk for heart disease (including stroke). One study specifically examined whether a diet containing walnuts could lessen inflammation. This study examined 634 participants and determined that the regular consumption of walnuts (30 to 60 g per day or around 2 to 4 walnuts) showed reduced levels of inflammation in six of the 10 inflammatory biomarkers that were measured. Monserrat Cofan, PhD, lead author of this study, stated, "The anti-inflammatory effect of long-term consumption walnuts demonstrated in this study provides novel mechanistic insight for the benefit of walnuts consumption on heart disease risk beyond that of cholesterol-lowering." Other studies also demonstrate that regular walnut consumption can boost brain function and

slow down cognitive decline. Walnuts are rich in omega-3 fatty acids and polyphenols, both of which reduce inflammation and fight oxidative stress which are the main causes of cognitive decline (Figure 3).

Another study published in the Journal of Nutritional Metabolism demonstrated that a single serving of Brazil nuts containing one, four or eight Brazil nuts resulted in an almost immediate improvement in bad (LDL) cholesterol levels. Elevated cholesterol is a known risk factor for stroke and other forms of cardiovascular disease. However, researchers followed up on the participants' cholesterol levels five days and then 30 days later. Note that during this period, the participants only had the initial single serving of one, four or eight Brazil nuts. Amazingly, they maintained lower cholesterol levels for a month after only eating that initial serving of Brazil nuts. The researchers also concluded that eating a single serving of four Brazil nuts was enough to maintain lower cholesterol levels for up to a month.

This sounds too good to be true and further research is definitely required. However, when the intervention is inexpensive, easy, harmless and healthy—such as eating four Brazil nuts a month—it's quite reasonable to adopt this habit until proven otherwise. In case you're wondering, the theory behind this amazing process is the selenium content of Brazil nuts. As an added benefit, the study also demonstrated these effects were achieved "without producing liver and kidney toxicity."

Stroke is an inflammatory-based disease process. Theoretically, blocking inflammation and other degenerative processes can delay the onset of inflammatory-based diseases such as stroke. Neurcumin® is an all-natural nutrient which, in addition to curcumin, contains many other polyphenols and natural agents uniquely formulated to fight inflammation.

To learn more about Neurcumin® and the prevention of inflammatory diseases such as Alzheimer's disease, stroke and heart attacks, please visit [Neurcumin.com](http://Neurcumin.com). You may also call 727-289-7139 or email us at [strokenerd@gmail.com](mailto:strokenerd@gmail.com) for more information.

available at amazon



**About Nasser Razack, MD, JD**

Dr. Razack currently practices as a neurointerventional surgeon in Naples, Florida. He dedicates a significant portion of his practice to educating in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of stroke. He completed his medical training at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia.



# Hurricane Preparedness:

## Aston Gardens At Tampa Bay Has Their Residents Covered

**W**e've been forewarned that this year's storm season is going to be much more active than last years. We can hope and cross our fingers that our coast won't get hit, but it's essential to make plans for hurricane season. It's important to have a plan.

- Lists of medication or prepacked bags of extra's (enough for two weeks)
- List of shelters
- Extra COVID-19 PPE (masks, sanitizer, etc.)
- Extra water (two-week's worth)
- Evacuation routes
- Organizing hurricane shutters or buying boards
- Trimming back trees and limbs
- Flashlights and batteries
- Tying down outdoor furniture, garbage cans, umbrellas, etc.
- Pet food, beds, medications and a list of shelters that take pets
- List of friends and neighbors phone numbers
- Homeowners Insurance paperwork
- Medical insurance
- Non-perishable foods
- Keep gas in your vehicle for evacuation purposes
- Sandbags

If you live at an Independent Living Facility like Aston Gardens At Tampa Bay, the hurricane preparation list is taken care of for you. One of the things individuals and couples love most about independent living is no yardwork or hurricane preparations in seasons like this. Aston Gardens is of course always fully stocked on emergency supplies, water, and food for their residents as well.

### Aston Gardens

Aston Gardens is also one of the most highly sought after communities, due to their dedication to senior needs, their commitment to enriching the lives of each resident and their families by providing personalized care, welcoming living spaces, and superior amenities within three distinct tiers, which include independent living, assisted living, and memory care facilities.



**Independent living** focuses on being as active, healthy and independent as you want to be, but never alone. Choose from one of our independent living apartment homes, or a luxury for-sale villa and enjoy the all-inclusive carefree, maintenance-free lifestyle at America's award-winning senior living community.

**Assisted living** offers residents a lifestyle of personal attention and help with activities of daily living, including bathing, grooming, dressing, taking medications and eating properly. Our focus is on health and wellness, helping residents to be as independent as possible with a personalized care plan that includes engaging social activities for a healthy body, enlightened mind and renewed spirit. With beautifully appointed assisted living suites, assisted living at The Inn is easy with the Aston Gardens One Price Personalized Plan. There are no confusing care levels to think about and our residents pay one low price for services.

**SHINE® Memory Care** offers a private special needs neighborhood for residents with memory care related issues. Residents needing Alzheimer's care and other dementia care receive the very best

attention and services in a supportive, compassionate and secure setting. Based on each individual's needs and capabilities, the professionals at Aston Gardens At Tampa Bay create a personalized plan to help our residents live life as fulfilling as possible, in a secure and comfortable environment.

**Want to know why so many people choose to live at Aston Gardens? It's the resort-style life, the caring staff, friendly community, and attention to detail that makes Aston Gardens surpass expectations.**

Aston Gardens At Tampa Bay is a luxury senior living community offering the best combinations of active-adult lifestyles and personalized care services. Wake up inspired each morning with a wealth of amenities, activities, and support at your doorstep. Explore the stylish Grande Clubhouse and indulge in our unique lifestyle services: Sensations Dining, Celebrations Activities and Dimensions Wellness. Let our dedicated team members handle transportation, maintenance, housekeeping, concierge services and more. Here you will find compassionate people engaged in enriching the lives of seniors, ensuring their needs are taken care of every day. Aston Gardens At Tampa Bay offers the best value in affordable, carefree, senior living. Everything we do is focused on providing you the very best in senior living. It's all right here!

**Now is the time to schedule your personalized tour! See why so many people want to call Aston Gardens their home!**

**Call 813-343-4673 today or visit [astongardens.com](http://astongardens.com).**



By Discovery Senior Living

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# CLEANER AIR = HEALTHIER LIVING

**P**roper breathing has recently become a health interest and people are encouraged to take deeper breaths and in specific rhythms for multiple health benefits. But what about the air we breathe? Is it clean, or does it harbor environmental toxins such as mold, bacteria, and viruses?

We all now understand after living in a pandemic for the past few years, the importance of breathing clean air that is free of airborne viruses or bacteria. This is also true for the surfaces we touch; they must be clean in order for us to stay healthy. Living in an area that is damp and humid also has a great impact on mold and fungus, which are detrimental to one's overall health.

ActivePure's Proactive Pathogen Defense™ systems proactively eliminates bacteria, mold, fungus, and viruses in the air and on surfaces, including the flu, common cold, and the virus that causes COVID-19. ActivePure works to eliminate pathogens.

ActivePure's Proactive Pathogen Defense™ is used in places like the Cleveland Clinic, government buildings, homes, hospitals, schools, and businesses.

It creates oxidizing molecules that significantly reduces viruses, bacteria, odors, and volatile organic compounds - both on surfaces and in the air.

In independent FDA compliant lab testing and unaffiliated third-party laboratory tests, ActivePure® Technology has been proven to reduce up to 99.99% of pathogens including SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID), Avian influenza, E. coli, MRSA, Norovirus, Staph bacteria, Candida, Swine Flu, Hepatitis, Legionella, and more.

**There is no place too big or too small for ActivePure. Various sizes and strengths are available. Below we've highlighted a few of the products available.**

## #1 FreshAir Personal

The FreshAir Personal provides nature's own powerful cleaning properties with a built-in ionizer that attracts free-roaming particles and captures them, reducing allergens and pollutants that invade the space you breathe.

- Removes airborne contaminants and allergens from the air immediately around your body



- Reduces asthma and allergy symptoms from your personal space
- Freshens air and removes odors within your breathing zone
- Can help keep irritating odors and harmful particles out of your personal space while traveling in confined spaces like an airplane or train



## #2 FreshAir Mobile

Our pocket-sized purifier provides clean, healthy air when you're on the go; significantly reducing surface and airborne contaminants, odors and pollutants in the areas where you spend your time.

- Reduces VOC's, smoke, and odors
- Reduces airborne contaminants and allergens
- Reduces odors and freshens air
- Reduces dirt and dust from the air
- Creates healthy, pure indoor spaces



## #3 Vollara Air & Surface Pro

This compact air purifier uses ActivePure® Technology to significantly reduce surface and airborne contaminants, odors and pollutants in the areas where you spend your time.

- New and improved ActivePure® Cell design delivers ActivePure® faster
- Reduces airborne and surface contaminants
- Freshens air and removes odors in stale environments without the use of ozone
- UVC light mimics cleansing
- Reduces dirt and dust from the air
- Positive and negatively charged ions reduce small particles and airborne pollutants

No Matter Where You Live, Work, Teach, or Play—Live Fully With Confidence™



The Latest Addition to TEAM Vollara, *Dr. Deborah Birx M.D. Chief Medical and Scientific Advisor*  
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To order your Air Purification Product or to find out more, please visit [www.purifiedlife.co](http://www.purifiedlife.co), or call 813-434-3393.

Source: [aspvollara.com](http://aspvollara.com)





# Neuropathy Can Be Treated With Advanced Technology, BUT Not All Providers Offer This Therapy

BY DR. ROBERT LUPO, D.C.

**N**one of us are impervious to aches and pains, but for numerous individuals chronic tingling, numbness, and pain disrupts their lives on a daily basis. In the United States, neuropathy affects close to 25 million people. Neuropathy symptoms are typically a heavy sensation in the limbs with numbness, tingling and pain.

Many people only associate neuropathy with diabetes, but that percentage makes up about 30% of the population affected. Other causes of the disorder are viral conditions, immune disorders, trauma, celiac, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, vascular disease, and alcohol use disorder, to name a few. Neuropathy can become debilitating.

**What you don't want to do is ignore your symptoms. Treatment is critical to get you back to living and enjoying your life.**

## Traditional Treatments

The most common treatment for nerve damage is to mask it with prescription medications. Unfortunately, these medications are addictive and only act as a band aid. Getting to the root cause of your neuropathy is critical.

## A Better Treatment Option

there is a way to actually "treat" the symptoms and improve the nerve function in the body. Over the past several decades, quantum technologies have been studied and due to the effectiveness of these devices, next generation technology has paved the way for effective peripheral neuropathy treatment.

## Advanced Treatment with Quantum Technology Gets to the Root Cause

Dr. Robert Lupo is on the cutting edge of multiple technological advances to offer his patients the most effective, groundbreaking options without surgery or addictive drugs. That is why he chose to work directly with RST Sanexas, due to their incomparable results.

Dr. Lupo explains, "This technology is remarkable as it's able to treat peripheral neuropathy on a cellular level to regenerate and repair damaged nerves. No matter if it's caused by diabetes, alcohol abuse, chemotherapy or other common conditions that lead to neuropathic disorders, the Sanexas technology is equally effective at treating the disorder."

## RST Sanexas: Is NOT a TENS unit device

For three decades, RST Sanexas' ardent, progressive research team members have been developing, refining, clinically testing, test-marketing and authoring scientific papers with its breakthrough electric cell signaling and quantum resonant specific induction (QSRI) technologies.



In 1995, RST-Sanexas medical devices were revamped to use quantum-based communications-level technology with both frequency modulation (FM), as well as the typical amplitude modulated (AM) electronic signals. To this day, amplitude modulation (AM) signals represent 99% of all marketed TENS type devices even though the human body operates exclusively by (FM) frequency modulated energy.

In 1996, after exhaustive clinical application data was received, a new electronic signal generating Patent was issued (UHdfg). The Patent covers this brand new advanced random, yet sequential AM/FM signal generation technique with spread spectrum frequency hopping technology.

RST-Sanexas technology is still fundamentally more advanced than any other electromedical device in use today.

## How Sanexas Technology Relieves Neuropathic Pain

Why does quantum technology hold so much promise for health care? Many cell processes take place at the nanoscale (the world of atoms and sub-atomic particles). At that scale, matter stops behaving according to the laws of classical physics and starts demonstrating the unique properties of quantum mechanics. Quantum technology is set to revolutionize the way we think about health care, medical data and even our own biology.

Pain treatment modalities and instruments that operate on quantum theory use resonance to increase energy in and between cells. Molecular resonance is best understood with an analogy in the macroscopic world. When a piano tuner strikes a tuning fork next to the piano, the specific piano string will

vibrate when it is correctly tuned to the same frequency. Similarly, cells resonate and transfer energy between molecules very rapidly.

**This procedure is covered by Medicare and most insurance carriers.**

## Dr. Lupo's Practice—An Integrated Approach

At Physical Medicine Center, Inc. you can expect a welcoming, friendly environment with a staff that genuinely cares about your progress. Their goal is your improved quality of life—that's why their comprehensive treatment plans are designed to help you reach your goals. If pain is holding you back, call today to learn more about their natural, non-surgical, non-drug options for pain relief.

## Dr. Robert Lupo, D.C.

*Dr. Robert Lupo is the clinic director at Physical Medicine Center located in north Tampa near the University of South Florida and New Tampa. Physical Medicine Center is a multidisciplinary medical center that offers Medical Care, Chiropractic Care, and Physical Therapy. Dr. Lupo attended Life University in Marietta Georgia and graduated with a Doctor of Chiropractic degree in 1985. Dr. Lupo has taken post-graduate education in chiropractic orthopedics, neurology, spinal disc injury care, and auto accident and injury care. Physical Medicine Center also offers massage therapy, treatment for dizziness, balance disorders, Spectra cell nutritional blood analysis, bio-identical hormone replacement therapy for men and women and offers the nationally known Medifast weight system.*

If you want drug-free alternative options for your health needs, look no further than the Physical Medicine Center in north Tampa. The Physical Medicine Center treats both male and female patients who desire alternative therapies to get to the root cause of their conditions. Call them today at 813-607-5095 to schedule your appointment.

Source: <https://www.rstsanexas.com/science>

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# Slowing the Pace of Your Life

By Pastor Timothy Neptune

**R**emember the old merry-go-rounds on the playground when you were a kid? You would spin in circles until you felt like you were going to fly off. That's how life can feel if you don't make some necessary changes.

You live a much faster lifestyle than your parents did. Your children will live an even faster lifestyle than you did. As we enter a new year, perhaps it is a good time to evaluate the pace of your life and make some necessary adjustments. The Psalmist tells us:

*2In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat—for he grants sleep to those he loves.* Psalm 127:2

If you are getting up early and staying up late but still don't feel like you can get everything done... you are probably trying to do too much.

Living at a hectic pace comes at a price. You end up feeling more stressed because you are trying to cram too many things into your day. You end up having no margin in your life. As the margins get tighter the stress goes higher.

You have to take time to recharge your batteries. Here's a lesson I learned years ago: You have just enough time to do the will of God. If you can't get everything done on your "to do" list, maybe there are things on the list you shouldn't be doing.

I want to share with you two simple strategies to help you slow down the pace of your life so that you can enjoy life.

The first strategy is to learn to be content. If you're serious about slowing down, you don't start with your schedule—you start with your heart.

The Apostle Paul said this about contentment. *"I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.*" Philippians 4:11-13

If you're going to slow down your life, you have to learn contentment. Paul also said this about contentment: *"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it."* 1 Tim. 6:6-7

What he is saying in these passages is that we need to understand that life isn't about things. **Contentment means this:** I don't need more in order to be happy.

I'm not waiting for *more* in order to be happy. I'm happy right now. I have dreams and I have goals but I don't need *more* in order to be happy. That's contentment.

**Contentment will come easier when you realize two things:** life is not a competition with other people and having *more* will not make you happier. This is not the message promoted by our culture, but it is true.



Jesus said it like this, *"Then he said to them, 'Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.'"* Luke 12:15

If you find yourself making statements like this:

- My life is a rat race.
- I don't know how I'm going to get it all done.
- I am just so exhausted.
- I don't know how much more of this I can take.
- I just want to escape.

These phrases are all warning signs that you are on the road to burn out. You need to slow down the pace. Perhaps as we begin this new year, taking an honest evaluation of your life and determine if some changes are necessary. Are you content in your life right now?

As the merry-go-round spins faster it is only a matter of time before you either get sick, or fall off. Or, better yet, just slow down, be content, and enjoy the ride.





## We Are The Right Place To Be Right Now

As a company that's served the best interests of seniors for nearly 30 years, we are no stranger to emergency management. Our commitment to the health and safety of our residents has long been paramount, and although COVID-19 is a new threat, it is by no means the first one we've faced head on.

In any emergency situation, it's imperative to know where trusted resources can be found. For seniors and families specifically, the importance of safeguards required for COVID-19, in many ways highlight the numerous benefits of living in a supportive community setting like the many we offer.

By leveraging extensive prior experience, financial strength, innovative technology and national buying power, we can provide the resources and forward thinking necessary to implement Enhanced Protocols and Operational Procedures immediately at our communities nationwide. We believe you or your loved one can be as confident as we are in our strategies to combat the spread of this virus.

- All Services and Amenities are Provided Onsite. *This Includes Chef-Prepared Dining, Activities, Social Events, & More*
- Ability to Deliver Onsite Healthcare Services
- Long-Standing Preventative Measures and Expansive Healthcare Supply Inventory
- Access to Industry Associations and the Latest News and Information
- National Buying Power and the Resources to Obtain High-Demand Healthcare Products
- Enhanced Operational Procedures and Protocols in Place From the Onset
- Fully Prepared to Enact New/Expanded Safety Measures
- Community-Wide Preventative Efforts Include Ongoing Cleaning, Sanitization and Housekeeping

**Accepting New Residents | Call Today!**



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# THIS IS NO TIME FOR PAIN

*NON-SURGICAL ORTHOPEDICS*



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