

TAMPA BAY'S

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

June 2024

St. Petersburg/St. Pete Beach Edition - Monthly

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## ACUPUNCTURE TREATMENTS

Below are just a few of the most common health issues that Dr. Kim treats:

### PAIN RELIEF

- Back • Sports Injuries • Cancer Related
- Headaches • Migraines • Fibromyalgia
- Knee • Neck • Sciatic • Arthritis

### CARDIOVASCULAR

- Hypertension • Hypotension • Palpitations

### NEUROLOGICAL

- Peripheral Neuropathy • Bell's Palsy
- TMJ • Stroke

### WOMEN'S HEALTH

- Fertility • Post-Partum Support • Menopause
- Dysmenorrhea • PMS • Labor Induction
- Breach Fetus • Labor • Delivery

### MEN'S HEALTH

- Overall Men's Health • Prostatitis • Fertility

### RESPIRATORY

- Common Cold • Allergies • COPD

### IMMUNE SYSTEM

- Adversity to Radiation • Chemotherapy
- Cold & Flu • Fatigue • Immune Support

### DIGESTIVE

- Acid Reflux • Gastritis • Diarrhea • Nausea
- Constipation • Vomiting

### ADDICTION

- Drugs • Alcohol • Nicotine



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# JOINT PAIN RELIEF: How New GLP-1 Weight Loss Medications and Regenerative Therapy Work Together

By Daniel Sucherman, MD

**Y**ou've heard the buzz about GLP-1 medications. Are they right for you and can they help give you joint pain relief by reducing your weight and inflammation throughout the body?

**Are you or someone you know dealing with nagging joint pain?** It can prevent you from doing the things you love and enjoying life. But guess what? There's some exciting news in the world of medicine that might just make a difference – it's all about combining GLP-1 medications with regenerative therapies. Let's take a closer look at how this powerful duo could change the game for people struggling with weight and joint discomfort.

**What are GLP-1 medications?** Originally, they were developed to help people manage their blood sugar levels. But scientists quickly discovered they do more than just that. Patients on these medications lose around 20% of their body weight! These medications also seem to have a knack for easing joint pain too! How? Recent research indicates the presence of GLP-1 receptors in joint tissues, suggesting a role beyond glycemic control and weight loss. These medicines help calm down inflammation – that's the stuff that makes your joints feel achy and swollen.

So, imagine you're dealing with arthritis or other joint damage. Your joints are inflamed, causing pain and stiffness. But when you take GLP-1 medications, they swoop in and help dial down that inflammation. Plus, while you are losing weight, they might even help protect your joints from getting worse over time. That means less pain and more flexibility – a win-win!

But here's where things get really interesting: combining GLP-1 medications with regenerative therapy. Regenerative therapy is rooted in using your body's natural healing mechanisms to repair damaged tissues. Think of it like giving your joints a boost of healing factors.

So, when you team up GLP-1 medications with regenerative therapy, it's like giving your joints a double dose of relief. GLP-1 medications help you



lose weight and also calm down inflammation and protect your joints, while regenerative therapy kicks your body's healing process into high gear, repairing any damage that's already been done.

Imagine being able to not only ease your joint pain but also potentially reverse some of the damage caused by your condition. It's a pretty exciting new treatment combination that is offering hope to millions of people dealing with chronic joint issues.

And the best part? This combo treatment is available now at QC Kinetix. So, if you're tired of sitting on the sidelines because of achy joints, it might be time to call QC Kinetix and find out whether this combo could be right for you.

Combining GLP-1 medications with regenerative therapy could be a game-changer for anyone struggling with joint discomfort, especially if you also need to lose some weight. By tackling inflammation and promoting healing, this dynamic duo offers new possibilities for restoring joint health and reclaiming a life free from the limitations of joint pain. So, don't wait – call QC Kinetix today and find out if this innovative treatment approach could help you lose weight and get back to doing the things you love, pain-free!

## Laurie's Story:

Laurie M. heard about QC Kinetix, a local regenerative medicine practice that was helping people with joint pain ditch pain medications and avoid surgery. Today she is so grateful she made that appointment to learn more. The doctor took the time to review her images and do a thorough exam and pinpoint the root cause of her pain. He explained how QC Kinetix uses the body's own healing factors to repair damage done to joints over years of wear and tear. In Laurie's case she admits the pain, and a stressful job, had led to weight gain and an overall feeling of sluggishness. The more weight she gained, the more her knees hurt, the harder it was to lose weight. The QC Kinetix team recommended a winning combination of GLP-1 weight loss medications and regenerative medicine. Laurie is down 50lb. Her knees feel better than she ever imagined they would and she is back to enjoying her life. The advice she gives to others is "Life is too short, call QC Kinetix and start enjoying it again."

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# PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY BREAKTHROUGH

*"My feet feel like they are on fire."*

*"Each step feels like I'm walking through wet paint."*

*"I live in constant fear that I'll fall."*

*"I can't sleep, my hands and feet tingle all night."*

What do all of these people have in common? They suffer from **peripheral neuropathy**. It's estimated that more than 20 million people in the United States have peripheral neuropathy. Unfortunately, this figure may be significantly higher as the disease is often misdiagnosed because of its wide array of symptoms.

Dr. Kim Windschauer of Acupuncture of West Florida in Clearwater Florida share this belief. "I've been treating neuropathy in all various forms for many years, and so often my patients come to me because of the symptoms, not because of a diagnosis. They saw one of my ads or read the testimonial of another patient and say to themselves, 'hey, I feel the same thing.'"

Kathy of Largo testifies to this. "I remember my husband driving me to my consultation, and I saw a woman running. I was so envious. I just kept thinking 'I would give anything just to walk again'. My primary care doctor told me my troubles with pain and balance were just symptoms of old age and gave me a prescription. I was so depressed."

Fortunately, Kathy would eventually see Dr. Kim's ad, describing similar symptoms, and how she offers a real solution at **Acupuncture of West Florida**. "I just knew I had to see her; it was my last hope."

**"Almost all of our patients come to us with a story like Kathy's. They've been everywhere else. They've been told, 'it's just a part of growing older,' shares Lauren, a Patient Care Technician at Acupuncture of West Florida, 'it just breaks my heart, but I know how much we can help people like Kathy so I'm always so happy when they walk through our door.**

Those diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy often face a very grim reality, Western medicine declares that there is no solution while most alternative therapies carry large price tags and offer little to no resolve. Which is why Dr. Kim and the staff at **Acupuncture of West Florida** pride themselves on being "the last resort with the best results."

Peripheral neuropathy is a result of damage to the nerves and this damage is commonly caused by lack of blood flow in the hands and feet. A lack of blood flow results in the lack of nutrients; the nerves then begin to degenerate and die which causes pain ranging from discomfort to debilitating. Because neuropathy is a degenerative condition, once those nerves begin to deteriorate, they will continue to do so until they are completely expired, leaving those suffering with crippling balance issues. "In this case the absence of pain is not necessarily a good thing," shares Dr. Kim. "This usually indicates that your nerves are hanging on by a fragile thread."

### So how exactly is Dr. Kim able to reverse the effect of this degenerative disease?

"Acupuncture has been used to increase blood flow for thousands of years which helps to get the necessary nutrients to the affected nerves. But the real magic happens when I integrate ATP Resonance Bio-Therapy. This is technology that was originally developed by NASA to expedite recovery and healing."

**"I just can't say enough about Acupuncture of West Florida," Kathy shared through tears of joy. "My husband and I moved here 3 years ago, and he's gone to the beach almost every day. I always stayed home because of the pain and discomfort. Yesterday I walked on the beach with him! And next week we're starting dancing lessons. I am truly living life these days!"**

According to Kathy's test result, she has seen a 74% improvement in pain and functionality, which is on par with a majority of our patients, shares Lauren. "But more important than those test results is the joy she's expressed being here and hearing about all the amazing things she's able to do because she feels great."

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By seamlessly blending the ancient science of acupuncture with modern medical solutions, Dr. Kim has achieved a 90% success rate in reversing the effects of neuropathy. She starts each patient with an initial consultation during which a sensory exam is performed. "This not only aids in making a proper diagnosis, but it helps to define just how much nerve damage has occurred," tells the doctor. "This is important because if a patient has suffered more than 95% damage there is little that I can do to help them. I'm familiar with the medical miracle but I know my limitations as a practitioner as well as the limits of my medicine."

When it comes to treating peripheral neuropathy, regardless of its origin, early detection greatly improves your chances of full recovery.

If you or someone you love are suffering with chronic pain that presents as burning, tingling or 'pins and needles' or you've recently been diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy, it's important to know that there are options. There is hope.

**Call (727) 490-6060 to schedule an initial consultation or visit [AcuofwestFL.com](http://AcuofwestFL.com) to read more incredible success stories.**



### ABOUT Dr. Kim Windschauer

I am an Acupuncture Physician, Board Certified by the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) as well as the Florida State Board of Health, to practice both Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine.

I graduated from East West College of Natural Medicine, and am a member of the Florida State Oriental Medical Association (FSOMA). I have a Masters in Science degree in Traditional Chinese Medicine and a Bachelor's degree in Health Services, from East West College of Natural Medicine, as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of South Florida.

I am one of the few native Floridians, born and raised right here in St. Petersburg. My husband and I have been married for over 35 years, and have nine children: Tyler, Jordann, Gabriel, Kevin, Annalyse, Lucas, Olivia, Cameron, and Addison. While the first five have moved into their own homes, and two are in college, we are far from empty nesters, having teenage twins and several dogs running around the house to keep us on our toes!

# HEALING A HERNIATED DISC: IS PHYSICAL THERAPY ALONE ENOUGH?

**A** herniated disc, also known as a slipped disc, can occur during strenuous activities, physical labor, or even simple, awkward movements. This condition not only causes significant pain and discomfort but also limits your mobility.

At Competitive Edge Physical Therapy in Tampa, FL, we employ revolutionary technology and hands-on therapy programs to manage symptoms and aid recovery from herniated discs. Our team offers insights into your recovery journey and the innovative treatment options available to expedite your healing process.

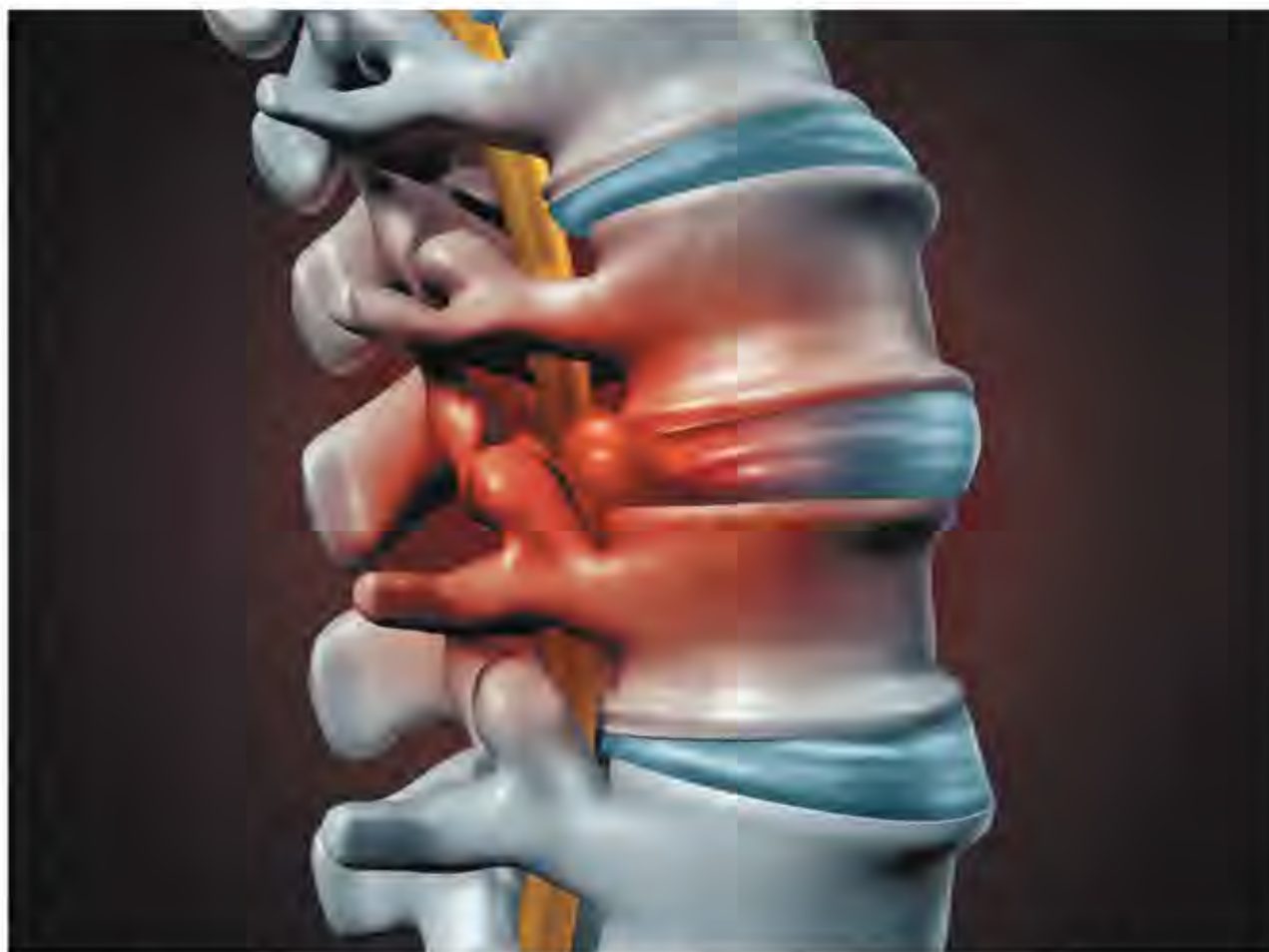
## Understanding Herniated Discs

Your spine is made up of vertebrae and discs; the latter are soft, rubbery tissues that sit between each vertebra. These discs act as shock absorbers, cushioning your spinal movements. A herniated disc occurs when one of these discs is displaced due to a sudden or incorrect movement, losing its ability to cushion the vertebrae properly. This often results in pain that may radiate from the affected area down through the buttocks and legs.

### Non-Surgical Healing Possibilities

It's possible to heal a herniated disc without surgery. Many patients see an improvement within a few months with appropriate treatment. The body naturally initiates several healing processes, including:

- **Immune System Activation:** Your body identifies and reacts to damaged tissues, reducing inflammation and pain.
- **Reduced Water Absorption:** As the injured disc loses moisture, it decreases in size, reducing its impact on surrounding nerves.
- **Controlled Disc Mechanics:** Your body's natural inclination to limit movement can reduce discomfort over time, but professional physical therapy is crucial to fully restore movement and prevent future issues.



## Advanced Physical Therapy Techniques

At Competitive Edge Physical Therapy, we combine expert care with the latest technologies to help you regain mobility and comfort. We offer several treatments that cater to both work-related and exercise-induced injuries:

- **NEUBIE E-Stim Therapy:** This FDA-cleared device enhances neurological control over movement and promotes healing. It's particularly effective in managing pain from herniated discs by alleviating nerve compression and improving circulation.
- **Winback Tecar Therapy:** Utilizing high-frequency sound waves, this therapy stimulates internal healing, easing stiffness and fostering cell repair.
- **Pulsed Electromagnetic Field Therapy (PEMF):** PEMF targets damaged tissues with energy waves, accelerating cell rejuvenation and calming your body's stress responses.

## Experience Comprehensive Care at Competitive Edge Physical Therapy

While a herniated disc might heal over time, our skilled clinicians at Competitive Edge Physical Therapy ensure a quicker and safer recovery, helping you return to your peak potential. If you're ready to begin your journey to recovery, call **813-849-0150** to schedule an injury screening in Tampa, Florida. Let us integrate cutting-edge technology into your personalized treatment plan and witness the art and science of healing firsthand.

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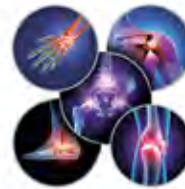
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# Boosting Dad's Health & Happiness: Celebrating Father's Day with GAINSWave

BY DR. ROBERT LUPO, D.C.

**D**o you have erectile dysfunction? Most standard medical practitioners will start a man on the "little blue pill," but this only masks the symptoms of ED and it definitely doesn't treat the cause. This year, instead of traditional Father's Day gifts, why not consider something that will truly make a difference in your father's health and happiness?

There is a common misconception that ED is just another sign of aging, but that couldn't be further from the truth. Any man that is showing signs of erectile dysfunction should seek alternative and thorough medical evaluation and treatment from a physician that not only understands the disorder but one that also offers the most advanced treatment to address your overall health.

**Dr. Lupo of the Physical Medicine Center** focuses on your cholesterol, blood pressure, total vascular health, blood sugar, and hormone levels to treat your root cause of ED. These disorders almost always run parallel to ED. In addition to these conditions, Dr. Lupo employs the most advanced groundbreaking technology, which utilizes high-frequency shockwaves to break up the plaque in the penis. This technology is called GAINSWave.

### Treat ED's Cause with GAINSWave

The standard treatments for erectile dysfunction are prescription medications or injections that cause an erection for a limited amount of time. However, there is a better way than the standard of care by actually treating erectile dysfunction at its core. The GAINSWave is a revolutionary, non-invasive treatment that addresses the underlying causes of ED. GAINSWave uses scientifically proven technology through sound waves to stimulate blood circulation, tissue regeneration, and removes plaque build-up. Traditional treatments for ED, such as pills or injections, lose effectiveness over time and have to be used every time a man wants to engage in sexual activity. GAINSWave helps men to feel like themselves again and to enjoy their lives.

GAINSWave utilizes high frequency, low-intensity soundwaves to improve blood flow to the penis, remove micro-plaque, and stimulates the growth of



new blood vessels. GAINSWave uses a specific protocol designed to optimize efficacy, safety, and results. Over 80% of Erectile Dysfunction (ED) issues are caused by reduced blood flow. GAINSWave has developed a protocol to treat ED and Peyronie's disease (scar tissue) as well as enhance sexual performance.

### it's Never too Late

Men who are just beginning to see ED warning indicators should seek the earliest treatment possible. The reason is that it has been well documented that if early diagnosis and treatment are started when a man is younger (the 30s, 40s, 50s) there is an increased chance that the ED will very likely no longer need medical treatment and their arteriosclerosis can dissipate. There have been multiple peer-reviewed studies that indicate that GAINSWave treatment can potentially cure ED in some patients. The sooner you intervene with treatment, the better your outcome will be, but it's not too late. GAINSWave has helped many patients with advanced ED conditions.

Almost everyone will experience a decline in sexual functioning. But with the advent of Regenerative medicine, Erectile Dysfunction is no longer an inevitable part of aging. GAINSWave is based on a series of over 30 clinical studies showing a greater than 75% success rate in treating Erectile Dysfunction (ED).

**Physical Medicine Center has many Google Reviews to Share with you. You can find those at [Google.com/Reviews/PhysicalMedicineCenterTampa](https://www.google.com/Reviews/PhysicalMedicineCenterTampa). We've highlighted a few:**

*"The minute you call the clinic you get the feeling that you are going to receive excellent treatment. They are very thorough and friendly. Dr. Lupo explains things thoroughly-Is a place that I would highly recommend."*—Jose

*"The staff of Physical Medicine are excellent. Their professionalism and knowledge of specific procedures being used I find very reassuring. I am trying to regain my ability to become "normal" again after prostate cancer and I am in treatment using the Gainswave technology along with the P-shot injections..."*—Dan

*"I have been coming to Physical Medicine Center for many years. I have a number of things wrong with my back, including Osteoarthritis, and a number of herniated discs. If it were not for Dr. Lupo and his great staff, I would have opted for some major back surgery years ago. Over the years, he has been able to let me enjoy a good quality of life, often with very little or no pain..."*—Craig

### DON'T JUST MASK YOUR SYMPTOMS—TREAT THE ROOT CAUSE!

#### 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 postgraduate 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.

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# Finally, There's Real Relief for Lower Back Pain

Dr. Sunil Panchal

**W**hen you're dealing with chronic low back pain, it's difficult to focus on anything other than your discomfort. The agonizing and sometimes debilitating pain can cause us to lose out on the important things, like spending time with our families, being productive at work, and even the simplest daily activities can require monumental strength to muster through them.

The statistics are overwhelming. Millions of individuals that suffer from low back pain and are not getting the relief that they could simply because their condition is often misdiagnosed. One of the most widespread causes of low back pain known as sacroiliac joint instability demands a specially trained health care provider to diagnose and treat the condition.

Sacroiliac (SI) joint instability, also known as SI dysfunction, is very often undiagnosed because most physicians are not trained in this ligament sprain or joint malalignment disorder. The sacrum is the bottom portion of the spine, and its L-shaped vertebrae are fused together. The ilium are the two large bones on each side of the sacrum that form the pelvic region. Very often, this area is misaligned, and the joints are under extreme tension and/or are offset.

#### The Symptoms of SI Joint Instability:

- Pain with sitting, standing, lying down or walking
- Numbness or tingling
- Pain that permeates down the legs
- Sciatic pain
- Groin and hip pain
- Pain just under the tailbone
- Gait issues
- Constant pain

#### Sacroiliac Joint Instability Causes

The most common cause of SI dysfunction is injury or trauma. If you've been in an auto accident or fallen on your hip or buttocks, you may have sprained or misaligned your SI joint. Transition syndrome also causes SI issues.

Other causes of Sacroiliac joint instability are, no precise cause at all. Some individuals are uncertain of how they may have injured themselves or why they have SI joint pain, and it takes an expert to diagnose and treat their condition properly. For women, being pregnant can cause some issues with joint pain due to the hormonal release that causes the pelvic region to relax and stretch as it prepares to make room within the birth canal. Other issues that cause SI dysfunction are spine misalignment, stenosis, and leg length discrepancies to name a few.



Instead of masking the pain with addictive medications or undergoing risky, unnecessary surgery, Dr. Panchal, with **The National Institute of Spine and Pain** has been offering patient's real relief and a restorative effect for their SI dysfunction. His technique, methods, and experience are the answer that many individuals have been waiting for to alleviate their back pain.

**For SI Joint Instability, Dr. Panchal performs the following techniques:** radiofrequency denervation, regenerative treatments (as non-surgical options), and minimally invasive SI joint fusion.

**The National Institute of Spine and Pain utilizes the most advanced, innovative methods from radiofrequency to spinal stimulation to treat pain from surgical complications as well as the following:**

- Back and neck pain, including herniated discs, spinal stenosis, tumors and fibrositis.
- Cancer Pain.
- Neuropathic Pain.
- Complex regional pain syndrome (also known as reflex sympathetic dystrophy or RSD).
- Muscle and joint pain.
- Disorders of the nervous system, including shingles and trigeminal neuralgia (facial pain).
- Chronic abdominal pain and pelvic pain.
- Pain from traumatic injuries including auto accidents
- Pain associated with osteoporosis and vertebral compression fractures.
- Sports related injuries.

Although surgery is critical in certain situations, finding alternative methods to treat the underlying condition is always the first step. **The National Institute of Spine and 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 & Pain, they treat each patient individually, using the latest equipment and various innovative procedures to diagnose pain and determine your care needs. The President and

Founder, Sunil Panchal, MD, is a board-certified interventional pain/ minimally invasive spine physician. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Biology from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY, and earned his medical degree from Albany Medical College of Union University in Albany, NY. In addition, Dr. Panchal completed The Business of Medicine Graduate Program at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD. Dr. Panchal completed an internship in general surgery at the University of South Florida in Tampa, a residency in anesthesiology at Northwestern University in Chicago, IL and a fellowship in interventional pain medicine at the University of Illinois in Chicago. He previously served as co-director of the chronic pain service and director of the multidisciplinary pain fellowship training program at Johns Hopkins University and subsequently as director of the division of pain medicine at Cornell University in New York. He is a member of the North American Spine Society, the North American Neuromodulation Society, the International Neuromodulation Society, and the American Academy of Pain Medicine. Dr. Panchal has authored numerous peer-reviewed journal articles and has served as a reviewer and editor for several journals. He is the co-editor and co-author of the textbook *Comprehensive Treatment of Chronic Pain by Medical, Interventional, and Integrative Approaches* (2013). Dr. Panchal is a principal investigator in numerous clinical trials, including a current study evaluating sacroiliac joint fusion. Dr. Panchal also served as the Chair of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network Cancer Pain Panel and has lectured widely at the national and international level. He is actively involved in the development of novel analgesics and neurostimulation devices, and in clinical research protocol design.

*At The National Institute for Spine & 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).*

#### The National Institute of Spine & Pain

4911 Van Dyke Rd., Lutz, FL 33558  
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**(813) 264-PAIN (7246)**

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

# Alzheimer's & Dementia: A Growing Epidemic

**I**t may seem unbelievable that the statistics for Alzheimer's and Dementia are skyrocketing to upwards of 6 million in the US, and that number is expected to triple by 2050. Have you or a loved one already been diagnosed with this devastating disease?

Forgetfulness, agitation and frustration, social withdrawal, difficulty with daily tasks, these are all symptoms of Dementia. Every 66 seconds someone develops Dementia in the U.S. Experts estimate that the number will be close to 15 million people by mid-century.

With Dementia, there are several different types, but one common and often overlooked type is vascular dementia, which usually affects individuals that have suffered a stroke or mini-stroke(s). Vascular dementia injures the brain in the area that controls memory, problem solving and speech. This type of dementia progresses at a slower pace, but with nonetheless frustration and self-consciousness for its sufferers.

## Warning Indicators

The signs and symptoms of dementia are different for every patient, but common indicators are as follows:

- Forgetfulness, especially short-term memory
- Changes in personality
- Agitation and Frustration
- Difficulty with daily tasks
- Social withdrawal
- Aphasia (speech disorders)
- Sundowning/Sleeplessness/Restlessness, especially in the evening

## Treatment

Some medications can slow the progression of the disease, but these are unfortunately not a curative treatment method. There are lifestyle choices that can help patients stave off the progression. These include:

- Dietary guidance
- Physical activity
- Cognitive training and socialization
- Intensive monitoring and management of metabolic and vascular risk factors



Alzheimer's and Dementia Preventative Measures Eating a nutritious diet, such as the Mediterranean or Dash diet provides essential nutrients for the brain's health. There have also been many studies on high doses of vitamin C and antioxidant therapy that help to protect cognition.

Staying social is also an impactful method to keeping your brain active. Along with socialization, staying physically active is imperative to keeping your oxygen-rich blood pumping and for warding off Alzheimer's and dementia.

*Aston Gardens offers a memory care facility on their Tampa Bay Campus.*

## 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

AL#10546, 9439, 10175, 10612, 10316



# Vaginal Dryness + Painful Sex Could be Signs of Endometriosis

By Parveen Vahora, M.D.

**E**ndometriosis is a painful, chronic condition that affects an estimated 1 in 10 women of reproductive age. It occurs when tissue like that which lines the uterus is found outside the uterus, usually in the abdomen or pelvis. Endometriosis most commonly involves your ovaries, fallopian tubes and the tissue lining your pelvis. Endometriosis can cause pain, infertility, and other symptoms. Treatment typically includes lifestyle changes, medications, and in some cases, surgery.

The most common symptoms of endometriosis are pelvic pain, pain during or after sex, and heavy periods. Other symptoms include fatigue, bloating, and difficulty getting pregnant. With endometriosis, the endometrial-like tissue acts as endometrial tissue would — it thickens, breaks down and bleeds with each menstrual cycle. But because this tissue cannot exit your body, it becomes trapped. When endometriosis involves the ovaries, cysts called endometriomas may form. Surrounding tissue can become irritated, eventually developing scar tissue and adhesions — bands of fibrous tissue that can cause pelvic tissues and organs to stick to each other.

Endometriosis is a long-term problem without treatment, and it usually lasts until menopause. After menopause, areas of misplaced endometrial tissue tend to become smaller and are less likely to cause symptoms. That is particularly true if your symptoms have come only during menstrual periods.

Various treatments are available for endometriosis, including lifestyle changes, medications, and in some cases, surgery. Lifestyle changes, such as exercising regularly, eating a healthy diet, and managing stress, can help reduce symptoms. Medications, such as pain relievers, hormones, and anti-inflammatories, can also help manage symptoms.

Conservative surgical treatments of endometriosis include a laparoscopic outpatient procedure. During laparoscopy, your doctor will destroy small areas of extra endometrial tissue that are implanted outside the uterus. The surgeon may burn them away or use a laser to vaporize them. Your doctor also may trim away tissue that is displacing your pelvic organs. These procedures are not painful and produce great results; however, the endometrial tissue may also return without adding pharmaceutical treatment.



Oral contraceptives are often used to treat mild to moderate symptoms of endometriosis, but they do not treat the underlying cause of the disease. For more severe cases, two medications have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of endometriosis: **Orilissa** (elagolix) and **Lupron** (leuprolide acetate).

One of the new medications approved for the treatment of endometriosis is Orilissa (elagolix). Orilissa, taken orally, is a non-hormonal medication that blocks the action of hormones that stimulate the growth of endometriosis. It is used to reduce moderate to severe pain caused by endometriosis. Orilissa may be used alone or with other medications. Orilissa belongs to a class of drugs called Gonadotropin Releasing Hormone Antagonists. Side effects of Orilissa include headache, nausea, hot flashes, and decreased bone mineral density. In women receiving this drug for endometriosis, hormone replacement therapy is recommended to reduce bone mineral density loss and vasomotor symptoms.

Lupron (leuprolide acetate) is a hormone therapy administered via injection or implant every three to six months. It works by reducing the levels of estrogen, which can help reduce the size of endometriosis implants, decrease pain, and improve fertility. Lupron is also used to treat the symptoms of prostate cancer in men. In women receiving this drug for endometriosis, hormone replacement therapy is recommended to reduce bone mineral density loss and vasomotor symptoms. Common side effects of Lupron include hot flashes, headaches, vaginal dryness, and painful sex.

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# When You Are At Your Wits End

**H**ave you ever been at your wits' end? Have you ever been so confused that you didn't really know which way was up? Have you ever had the feeling, "I know I need to do something...but I don't know what 'something' to do."

The Bible tells the story of a group of sailors who went out to sea and encountered a huge storm that almost killed them:

*<sup>23</sup>Others went out on the sea in ships; they were merchants on the mighty waters. <sup>24</sup>They saw the works of the LORD, his wonderful deeds in the deep. <sup>25</sup>For he spoke and stirred up a tempest that lifted high the waves. <sup>26</sup>They mounted up to the heavens and went down to the depths; in their peril their courage melted away. <sup>27</sup>They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their wits' end. <sup>28</sup>Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress. <sup>29</sup>He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed. <sup>30</sup>They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven. <sup>31</sup>Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men. Psalm 107:23-31*

**Can you relate to this group of sailors?** Maybe the circumstances in your life have caused your courage to melt away. Perhaps you are going through a storm of your own. You may find yourself at your wits' end without any clear direction as to what to do next. If so, follow the example of the sailors in the Bible.

The first thing they did was cry out to the LORD in their trouble. Don't underestimate the power of prayer. An old gospel song says, "when God is all you have, you'll find He's all you need." God responded to the sailor's prayer by bringing them out of their distress. In fact, it says he stilled the storm to a whisper and the waves of the sea were hushed. God can do that in your life and in your situation as well. Call out to him. His timing is not always as quick as we may like but He knows what is best for each of us.

When the storm was over, the text says that God guided the sailors to their desired haven. They found their place of rest and peace. Storms don't last forever... and neither will yours. Keep your faith in God. Cry out to Him in your pain. Trust that He knows what's best and keep praying and seeking your desired haven... it may be just around the corner.

And then, don't forget to thank God when He does bring you through the storm. The story concludes by saying, "Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men."

Storms, crises, pain and problems are an unfortunate reality of life. We grow through the pain and learn valuable lessons during these times. Don't give up, give in, or quit. When you find yourself at your wits' end...hang on, cry out to God, and look for His deliverance.



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