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Preventing Falls With Physical Therapy

Health & Wellness Newsletter

Have you noticed you don't seem to be quite as steady on your feet? Did you know that you can get your balance checked? At the Physical Therapy Center, our physical therapists are movement specialists. We can help you figure out why your balance is off and, more importantly, how to get it back!

No matter what age you are, you can always improve your balance. According to the CDC, about one in four adults age 65 and older report falling each year. Even those who do not live with a balance or gait disorder can still suffer from a fall.

People who notice they feel imbalanced, dizzy, or unsteady may live with a balance or gait disorder. Although balance disorders often stem from the vestibular system, other factors may be affecting your balance as well. Fortunately, physical therapists have the expertise to determine what is causing your limitations and how to resolve them!

If you have noticed issues with your balance, contact the Physical Therapy Center today. We can help you figure out the root of your problem and treat it accordingly.

What Are the Main Causes of Falling?

In older adults, falls are the leading cause of fatal and nonfatal injuries. Most people don't think about keeping their balance in shape until it is too late and suffer a harsh fall. The good news is that most falls can easily be prevented simply by regularly exercising your balance systems.

The most common reasons for falls include:

- Disorders of the vestibular system
- Muscle weakness (i.e., core and lower extremities)
- Vision loss
- Long-term health conditions like heart disease, dementia, or neurological disorders like Parkinson's or MS

If you have recently sustained a balance-related injury, it is important to seek the help of a physical therapist immediately to avoid additional injuries in the future.

It is also important to contact a physical therapist if you have any of the following vestibular related symptoms:

- Dizziness or vertigo ("spinning" sensations, even when remaining still)
- Inability to focus or stay alert
- Double vision or tunnel vision
- Nausea or vomiting
- Arm or leg weakness
- Abnormal eye movements

The vestibular system is a delicate set of fluid-filled chambers and sensory nerves located in the inner ear. Your vestibular system helps manage your sense of position (aka proprioception) and keep yourself steady.

The good news is that you can prevent most falls, and our therapists can show you how!



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The natural aging process increases the risk of falling, but that doesn't mean we should accept falls as a regular part of getting older. Falls are caused by several risk factors that can be reduced or eliminated with physical therapy.

For example, your therapists can help you identify hazards within the home that often contribute to a fall, such as:

- Wet floors, such as in the kitchen or bathroom
- Poor lighting
- Rugs or carpets are not properly secured
- Reaching outside abilities, such as a cupboard or cabinet
- Going down stairs without railings
- The person is rushing
- Falling from a ladder or step stool while doing home maintenance work
- Improper medication
- Drinking alcohol

Risk factors relating to your health and wellbeing or your activities and surroundings can contribute to a fall. Our team will take a holistic perspective to determine the origin of your balance issues and the make-up of your treatment plan.

When you arrive at the Physical Therapy Center, your physical therapist will walk you through a comprehensive exam to gauge the nature of your condition and figure out the best course of treatment for your needs.

We will start with an injury evaluation, mobility, strength, and a balance assessment to identify all the factors contributing to the injury. In addition, we will include a review of your fall history and fear of falling, as well as identifying any home hazards/environmental factors that may contribute to your fall risk.

Whatever the case may be, all treatment plans will contain targeted balance exercises, treatment of your vestibular system, and strengthening to help improve your core and lower extremities. Specific gait and coordination drills may also be included in your treatment plan, depending on your condition.

Call Today To Schedule An Appointment

Are you ready to get back on your feet and decrease your risk of sustaining a balance-related fall? Contact the Physical Therapy Center to schedule a consultation and get started today!

Don't Let Your 2023 Insurance Benefits Go To Waste!

Take charge of your health today and make the most of your insurance benefits! If you've already met your deductible this year or have funds left in your HSA account, you can take advantage of our remarkable opportunity at the Physical Therapy Center. Don't let these valuable benefits go unused!



3 Tips to Improve Nutrition in the Fall

What do you think of when you hear the word fall? Crisp refreshing days? Bonfires and changing leaves? Pumpkin carving? What if you were to focus on your nutrition this fall?

The food we eat has a significant impact on several elements of our health, particularly our heart health. Obesity, weight gain, physical inactivity, stress, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol all increase the risk of heart disease and other cancers.

Considering the importance of nutrition, it's never the wrong time to think critically about your diet. At the Physical Therapy Center, we know that fall can be busy, which is why we want to give you a few simple tips on how to improve your nutrition this season.

1. Try To Eat More Root Vegetables

The majority of root vegetables are available all year, but they are most ripe from fall to spring. During the cooler

months, garlic, onions, ginger, turnips, carrots, sweet potatoes, beets, and parsnips provide plenty of flavor and nutrients.



2. Make A Hearty Soup

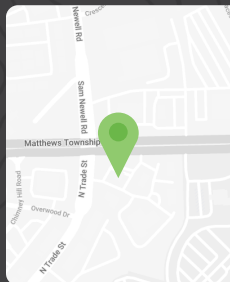
Making a large pot of soup every weekend is a great way to improve your nutrition throughout the week. Soups, while they can take several hours to cook, usually require very little active time.

3. Select Leaner Sources Of Protein

Instead of opting for red meat, select leaner sources of protein for your meals and recipes. This can include chicken, turkey, beans, lentils, low fat yogurt, fish, tofu, and nuts.

If you think you need a little more help developing a healthy diet this fall, contact the Physical Therapy Center today. **We can help you develop an exercise and nutrition plan that works for your needs.**

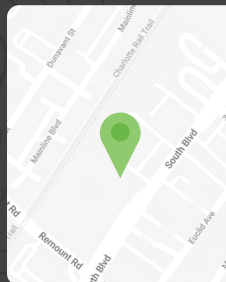
Let's get you better ASAP! Schedule your appointment today!



Matthews Location

1352 Matthews Township Pkwy
Unit 102 - Matthews, NC 28105
(704) 610-1868

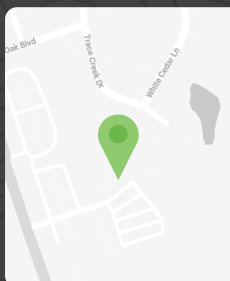
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South End Location

2400 South Blvd
Suite 203 - Charlotte, NC 28203
(980) 303-3991

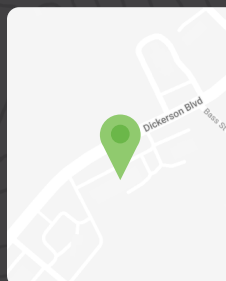
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Waxhaw Location

105 Waxhaw Professional Park Dr
Suite B - Waxhaw, NC 28173
(704) 459-4269

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Monroe Location

1730 Dickerson Blvd
Suite D - Monroe, NC 28110
(704) 459-3794

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