

MEDICAL



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Q: Can thyroid disease cause peripheral neuropathy?

A: Peripheral neuropathy is a general term for disorders of the nerves that serve the farthest reaches of the body (such as the feet, legs and hands). Symptoms include numbness, tingling, burning pain, weakness,

restlessness of legs and loss of balance.

Although not a common cause, *abnormal thyroid hormonal levels* are known to result in neurologic problems including *peripheral neuropathy* (which may occur despite adequate treatment).

However, the most common neuropathy associated with an underactive thyroid (hypothyroidism) involves the median nerves across the wrists leading to *carpal tunnel syndrome*. Weakness due to muscle involvement is also a common complaint of patients with thyroid disorders.

These symptoms can be evaluated with an EMG (electromyography or muscle and nerve testing) that checks the health of muscles and the nerves that control these muscles.

To schedule an appointment, call 323.0955 or for more information, visit the website of the Kalamazoo Nerve Center.

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