

# Peripheral neuropathy linked to mortality in U.S. population

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adults with no diabetes and no PN, respectively. In adjusted models, in participants with diabetes, PN was significantly associated with all-cause mortality and cardiovascular mortality (hazard ratios [95 percent confidence intervals], 1.49 [1.15 to 1.94] and 1.66 [1.07 to 2.57], respectively). PN was significantly associated with all-cause mortality in those without diabetes (hazard ratio, 1.31; 95 percent confidence interval, 1.15 to 1.50); after adjustment, the association between PN and [cardiovascular mortality](#) was no longer statistically significant (hazard ratio, 1.27; 95 percent confidence interval, 0.98 to 1.66).

"These findings suggest that decreased sensation in the foot may be an underrecognized risk factor for death in the [general population](#)," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

(HealthDay)—Peripheral neuropathy (PN) is associated with mortality, even among individuals without diabetes, according to a study published online Dec. 8 in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

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Caitlin W. Hicks, M.D., from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, and colleagues examined the associations between PN and all-cause and cardiovascular [mortality](#) in a [prospective cohort study](#) involving 7,116 U.S. adults aged 40 years and older with standardized monofilament testing for PN.

The researchers found that the overall prevalence of PN was  $13.5 \pm 0.5$  percent; prevalence was  $27.0 \pm 1.4$  and  $11.6 \pm 0.5$  percent in adults with and without diabetes, respectively. Overall, 2,128 adults died during a median follow-up of 13 years, including 488 who died of cardiovascular causes. Per 1,000 person-years, the incidence rates of all-cause mortality were 57.6, 34.3, 27.1, and 13.0 in adults with diabetes and PN, adults with PN but no diabetes, adults with diabetes but no PN, and

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