PLANTAR FASCIITIS, OH NO!

by Bobbi Kisebach, LMT

Summertime: days spent frolicking barefoot on the beach, nice long training runs, evening walks in the extended daylight, flip-flops... and plantar fasciitis, OH NO!

*What is it? How can you avoid it? How do you get rid of it?*

Plantar fasciitis (PLAN-ter fash-ee-EYE-tus), according to WebMD, is the most common cause of heel pain. The bottom surface of the foot (plantar) consists of connective tissue (fascia) that can become inflamed (-itis) by stressors. The most telling symptom is stabbing pain in the bottom of the heel (possibly radiating into the arch) at that first step in the morning or after a period of inactivity. Plantar fasciitis is most likely caused by straining the ligament (the plantar fascia) under the foot that supports the arch. The causes are often overpronation or a high inflexible arch, tight calves, sudden weight gain (including carrying weights and pregnancy), increasing mileage or time on your feet (especially on hard surfaces and in unsupportive shoes), worn out shoes, and extended time in flip-flops.

Therefore, to avoid plantar fasciitis this summer, if you over-pronate be very wary of time spent in flip-flops and walking on the uneven sand and trails without supportive shoes. Be careful increasing your mileage, especially if you feel any pangs underfoot. Replace your running shoes before they become too worn.

The Mayo Clinic suggests conservative treatment with NSAIDs (Aleve, Motrin, Advil), stretching and strengthening exercises including physical therapy, and devices such as night splints and orthotics.

Here at The Running Place, we recommend rolling your foot on the Foot Wheel or perhaps a hard ball to stretch the plantar fascia before that first time you stand in the morning; also use it anytime later in the day followed by ice to reduce inflammation. It is not recommended to ice if you'll be on your feet soon after as the icing makes the soft tissue temporarily less pliable.

The Stick is an effective aid to work out the calf, which attaches to the heel as does the plantar fascia. When the calf is relaxed, it pulls less on the heel which then relieves the plantar fascia. We have non-custom orthotics that may help resolve your plantar fasciitis, or at least provide relief; we also have night splints and Feetures socks made specifically for plantar fasciitis to give support to the arch. Soft gel heel cups can be a lifesaver by ameliorating the pain when you have to stand for longer periods of time.

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Another treatment that has been helpful to my massage clients and customers here at The Running Place is kinesio tape. KT Tape has a very helpful website with a film on how to apply tape. [http://www.kttape.com/instructions/plantar-fasciitis/#pnlReadMoreAfter](http://www.kttape.com/instructions/plantar-fasciitis/#pnlReadMoreAfter). Kinesio tape helps resolve inflammation and in this case also offers support to the arch.

If conservative treatments don’t work, the Mayo Clinic suggests your doctor may try a steroid injection, extracorporeal shock wave therapy, or surgery. Don’t let it get that bad!

Enjoy the summer, be careful to not overdo it, protect the bottoms of your feet, and know that we at the Running Place have tools to help. Happy beach frolicking and pain-free running!

Bobbi Kisebach is a licensed massage therapist, practicing corrective massage since 1998. She also works at The Running Place and is excited to help customers find the best shoes for their feet and give educated responses to any concerns they may have.

In our spring newsletter, we wrote about the waning popularity of the minimal shoe trend and the rejuvenated interest in footwear with cushioning and shock absorption. Not only is there a renewed desire for cushion, but for maximum cushioning. Some have called this the ‘maximalist movement.’

Leading the effort to fill this need among the major running brands is Saucony.

Saucony has had very well-cushioned shoes through the various running trends that have come and gone. Over the last 15 years, the Triumph and Hurricane have been two of their most cushioned shoes. The 2015 season has seen the release of the Saucony ISOFIT Series, which includes some serious ‘pumping up’ of these two shoe models. Among the changes to these iconic shoes are PWRGRID+ (PowerGrid plus) and ISOFIT:

- **PWRGRID+** includes an additional three millimeters of foam underfoot, has 20% more cushioning and is 15% more resilient than standard POWERGRID, and provides a plush feel, responsive ride, and superior impact protection.

- **ISOFIT** wraps the shoe securely around your foot using a soft inner sleeve and supporting cage that allows the upper to conform to the shape of your foot and move dynamically with the motion of your foot.

The result of these improvements is a series of shoes that provides a super plush ride with a custom-feeling fit in a package that is unbelievably light!

The Triumph ISO is a neutral shoe designed for a rigid foot while the Hurricane ISO has more structure and falls into the support category, giving stability to those who have a more flexible arch. Both of these models are currently in stock at The Running Place. August will bring the release of another ISOFIT shoe, the Redeemer. The Redeemer will give all the above benefits to those who are severe over-pronators and require motion control shoes.

The Running Place will be hosting a Saucony ISOFIT wear test on Sunday, June 7th for our 3-mile prediction run. Join us for the run, test out some new Saucony running shoes, win prizes, and shop our Sidewalk Sale. See you there!
Best Age Group Awards Around!

Be one of the 500 patriotic runners celebrating America's independence at the Broomall Rotary's 6th Annual Firecracker 5k starting at 9:25 a.m. The race course runs out and back on West Chester Pike from the Broomall fire station, and leads the annual Marple-Newtown 4th of July parade.

Prizes and awards in abundance: age group awards include Tifosi sport sunglasses and Saucony gear. All runners will be eligible for free raffles and the chance to win Saucony shoes, gift cards, and more! You can't win if you don't run! Register online at www.firecracker5krun.com or in person at The Running Place.
MONDAY NIGHT RUNS
from The Running Place

Are you looking for running partners?
Join us on Monday nights for our weekly group run. All levels are welcome, whether you are following a walk/run program or winning races and age group awards. We leave from the store promptly at 6:45 p.m.

If you need even MORE motivation, on the first Monday of each month, we will treat all Monday night runners to PIZZA immediately following the run.

SAVING THE DATE!
August 23, 2015

RADNOR RED RUN 5k Steeplechase
Horse Jumps, Water Pits, Cross Country Trails & Fun!

Course is USA T&F Sanctioned and part of Mid-Atlantic Association’s Off Road Running Series.

For more information:
www.radnorredsteeplechase.org
www.fasttracksrunning.org

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