







Common Foot & Ankle Problems

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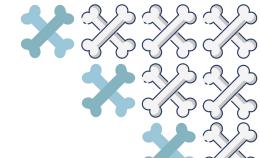
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Objectives





To understand the anatomy of Foot and Ankle.



To get a concise idea on common Foot and Ankle disorders.



To differentiate from simple disorders and serious ones.



To learn about initial management and prognosis.

Common foot and ankle problems



Flat foot very common 20-25% of population 2

Hallux Valgus



Plantar fasciitis



Ankle sprains & instability

5

Osteochondral lesion of talus



Diabetic foot



Charcot foot

Importance of Foot and Ankle

- Subject to most weight bearing (Loading) of the body 1 kg increase in trunk will Increase weight bearing by 8 kg in ankle and 4 kg in knee
- Important proprioception function.
- Their appearance or deformity is easily noticeable while the patient is standing
- Faulty or improper shoe wear can cause symptoms.
- With advancing age; deformity becomes more symptomatic.
- Their sensory role is very important.

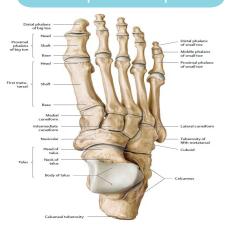
Anatomy of the Foot



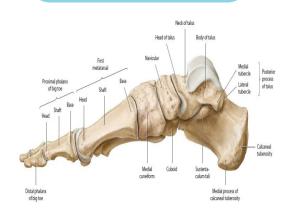
- Body of Foot consist of (26 bones) and divided into:
- 1. Fore Foot: Phalanges + Metatarsals
- 2. MidFoot: Navicular + Cuboid + 3 cuneiforms.
- 3. Hind(rear) foot: Talus(articulate with tibia to form ankle joint) + Calcaneus(articulate with talus to form subtalar joint)

Foot Skeleton

1- superior Aspect



2- Medial Aspect



3- Lateral Aspect ²





X-ray (standing) 3

- 1- Talus and Calcaneus forms subtalar joint. We have more bones on the medial side than we have on the lateral side; that's because medial side gives stability while lateral gives flexibility.
- 2- Mid Foot forms the arch of the foot.
- 3- If siting shows no arch; Should be done in standing position since it's the function of the foot to bear weight. Standing to show any deformity

Flat Foot (Pes Planus)

- Reduction of longitudinal arches of the foot.
- Most cases are developmental¹: i.e. arches do not develop normally².
- Usually is painless³
- Rarely acute flat = loss of the arch in case of an injury of the **posterior tibialis** tendon, unilateral
- Rigid flat (painfull) foot can be the result of tarsal coalition (fibrous or bony cross union between bones of the foot) "abnormal connection between bones in the back of the foot"
- Hind foot> valgus, Mid foot> reduction of longitudinal arch of the foot,
 Forefoot > abducted foot
- X-ray should be taken in standing position to show deformities



Cavus foot: longitudinal axis of talus is pointing upwards exaggerated arch

Normal X-ray







Blue line: along the talus all the way to the metatarsal bone should be continuous with a 0 angle, up to 4 degree is considered normal. If the angle is >4 degree \rightarrow considered flat foot.

IMPORTANT

Rigid or flexible flat foot

This table is important To differentiate between flexible and rigid flat foot

| TALUS CALCANEUS COOML CUT VIEW MEDIAL VIEW | Normal | Flexible most common (can be corrected without surgery) | Rigid Rare worse and can come at early age with early complication (needs surgery) | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| Alignment | Straight or minimal valgus | Extreme valgus | | | |
| Standing on tiptoes | The heel moves inward (from valgus to varus) the arch is still present | The heel moves inward (from valgus to varus), The deformity will be corrected the arch will reconstruct in flexible flat foot Hind foot> straight, Mid foot> reconstruction of arch, Fore foot > no abduction | Does not move inward (stay in valgus), Not correctable deformity (still valgus) the arch will remain absent in rigid flat foot | | |
| Subtalar motion (inversion/eversion) | Normal ROM | Normal ROM | Reduced or absent | | |
| Etiology | _ | Ligamentous laxity (Present in almost 20% of the population) | Tarsal coalition ^{4:} Fibrous or bony union between bones of foot for fibrous we need to do MRI | | |

¹⁻Could be acquired in elderly due to posterior tibialis weakness.

²⁻Normally, the arch is formed within 4-6 years

^{3-80:20} rule: 20% of the population has it, 80% of them are asymptomatic, with time its become painful, and might have knee and back pain.

⁴⁻For tarsal coalition It has 2 type: 1-talocalcaneal and 2-calcaneonavicular

Flat foot:

- Hind foot: increased valgus
- Midfoot: lack of arch
- forefoot : abduction Flexible tested via Beighton test which tests the ligament laxity



Flexible



for example patient has flat foot so they have valgus, If they stand on their tippy toes and the valgus goes to straight and the arch is formed its flexible, if it can't go to normal it rigid

always start with conservative: Weight loss

Orthotics (for arch

Activity modification

Physiotherapy

Shoes

support)

1.

2.

3.

Management

- Usually NO action is needed. (Asymptomatic)
- If Symptomatic **Always** start with conservative (5stpes)
- **Foot exercises**: Strengthen muscles is important but will <u>not correct deformity</u>.
- Orthotics/insoles الدعامات: Protective, correct Malalignment
- **Good shoes:** beneficial on the long run.
- Surgery:
- Rigid¹ flat foot. Removal of coalition for the risk of osteoarthritis
- 2. Painful flat foot with complication. Like arthritis
- Acute flat foot. Fix it and the arch will come back 3.





Imp to know difference between flexible and rigid flat foot because the rigid you need to do surgery it's usually show up at 12-14 if you catch it early it will be easy to fix but if you leave it until advanced age the pt will get arthritis

- Means <u>lateral deviation of big toe.</u> it's associated with flat foot
- Usually at the metatarsophalangeal joint.
- Most cases are painless. (If painful, would be due to shoe pressure on large toe or an inflamed bunion due to arthritis.)
- Often is associated with a **bunion**² (swelling and protrusion at the medial aspect of big toe³)
- Severe HV interferes with shoe wear.
- Common at middle age and elderly mainly females 5
- Possible causes for hallux valgus: 1-Flat foot "if pt is not using the arch the toe will deviate laterally"
 - 2- Inherited bilateral 3- Shoe wear "heels" 4-Rheumatoid arthritis
- The pain isn't usually caused by the lateral deviation of the big toe, it's rather caused by the medial deviation of the 1st MTP joint.



1-Usually have gastrocnemius muscle tightness

2- Hallux valgus ≠bunion. **bunion** (swelling and protrusion at the medial aspect of big toe). Hallux valgus is the whole deviation of the big toe away from the central line. Sometimes people have a bunion without hallux valgus and we treat it by a bunionectomy; a surgery by which we remove the bunion. A bunion is not a growth instead it's exposure of the metatarsal head.

- 3-have many reasons most importantly the weight and the shoe.
- 4-Rheumatoid arthritis
- 5-Heels

Hallux Valgus Measurement

Hallux valgus angle: (no. 2)

- Angle between line extending along 1st metatarsal and a line extending along proximal phalanx.
- Normal: <15° Mild HV: 16-25°
- Moderate HV: 26-35°
- Severe HV: > 35°

Normal < 10° Moderate = 12° Severe > 15°



Normal Foot







Hallux Valgus



Hallux interphalangeus angle: To assess if the deformity within the toe (no.1)

Angle between long axis of proximal and distal phalanges

1st intermetatarsal angle: (no. 4) most common and very important

Angle between 1st metatarsal long axis and 2nd metatarsal

- Normal < 8°
- Severe >13°



always start with conservative:

Orthotics

Shoes

2.

Weight loss

Activity modification Physiotherapy

Management

- If painless (most common) reassure. Never treat for cosmetic purpose
- If painful (interfering with walking), always start with conservative (5-steps)→
- Correct and suitable **shoe wear.** Wider shoes
- Avoidance of tight shoes.
- Protection to the bunions. (by cushioning) Using orthotics "like ring cover the toe" or using silicon
- **Surgery** is reserved for symptomatic and disturbing cases. (if conservatives fail to relieve pain for 3-6 months)
 - Surgery is annoying (hardware on skin).
 - Removal of bunion is not cosmetic, patient has to be symptomatic "pain in the joint, pain in the 2nd toe, pain because of shoe wear".
- Following surgery; patient has to continue proper shoe wear.



Metatarsus went medially Phalanx went laterally

X-ray Hallux Valgus **pre-op**

X-ray Hallux Valgus **post-op**





There a lot of procedures, but in basic steps:

- 1- Correct deviated metatarsal.
- 2- Excise the part of the bunion not all of it.
- 3- Release Adductor hallucis longus tendon as it is a deforming force.



- Common disorder at middle age and elderly. affect about 90% of the population
- Insidious in onset; unilateral or bilateral. Vague pain at heel region. You wake up with sudden pain
- **Localized tenderness** to insertion of plantar fascia into calcaneum.
- Plain lateral X-ray of heel frequently shows calcaneal spur¹ (مسمار القدم), (prominence or ossification at the site of anterior calcaneum at plantar fascia insertion site)²
- Commonly associated with flat feet. Also associated with increase weight, walking barefoot on hard surfaces
- No visible heel swelling, no skin changes and no increase in local temperature.
- Inflammatory process is at site of pain; i.e. at **plantar fascia insertion into calcaneum**.
- Heel pain like **stabbing pain** when patient puts foot to the ground first step in the morning; and gets

less after some walking.³





- Weight (overweight)
- Bad shoes (Too soft and flexible)
- Walking barefoot
- Tightness of the Gastrocnemius

Imaging

X-ray: Bilateral Calcaneal Spur (Early)



X-ray: Calcaneal Spur (Advanced)



The body compensates with formation of calcification

Management

"In many cases, patients will not be compliant with these steps"

- Most important; proper shoes & weight reduction
- NO easy or simple management is available.
- Mainly conservative.
- Includes **stretching exercises** to plantar fascia: active and passive.
- Use of **soft heel insoles** (Silicone) may be helpful.
- may be effective4. Resistant cases only الموجات الصدمية بالتنظير الخارجي (Shock wave therapy (SWT)
- Local **steroid** injections are helpful sometimes. Very resistant cases
- Surgery (very rare):last solution Release of gastrocnemius muscle "NO surgery for plantar fascia itself"
- Surgery if there's nerve compression as carpal tunnel syndrome "median nerve

(435) If the first 5 steps of conservative didn't relieve the pain;

- We do MRI to confirm diagnoses.
- Give **steroid injection** if the steroidal injections didn't relieve the pain, 2.
- Do nerve conduction study to determine other causes. Other causes which although rare but give same symptoms of plantar fasciitis are: tarsal tunnel syndrome posterior to the medial malleolus compressing on lateral and medial plantar nerves (branches of posterior tibial nerve) and nerve entrapment due to large muscle in athletes.
- 1-No relation between the spike (spur) you see on x-ray and the pain. some patient have very large spikes with no pain and some have very severe pain with no spike, what we get from that is that it doesn't have to be removed to alleviate the pain.
- 2- It is an indication of inflammation for many years.
- 3-When we sleep or set for long periods our feet are in plantar flexion, making the achilles tendon short and when we step on the floor for the first time, we do dorsi flexion which stretches the achilles tendon stretching the plantar fascia with it causing pain.
- 4- To break down the thick tissue, which we don't know how it happens

- Always start with conservative:
 - Weight loss
 - Shoes 2.
 - Orthotics
 - Activity modification
 - 5. Physiotherapy
 - 6. Steroids
 - Surgery

Ankle Sprains





- One of the most common injuries.
- Usually occurs during sports activities, but may occur at home or street.
- The injury is **partial or complete ligament rupture.**



Clinical Features

- History of twisting injury. Most commonly inversion
- Pain, swelling and bruising at and around ankle. Swelling in look, tenderness in feel usually soft tissue not bone, sometimes can't walk
- No tenderness of lateral malleolus; but tenderness anterior, posterior or inferior to it i.e. over ligaments.
- Dorsiflexion and plantar flexion possible; but inversion and eversion very painful¹
- Positive anterior drawer test. If both sides positive its a laxity disease if only one side its ligamentous
- X-Rays: NO fracture. You have to rule it out.



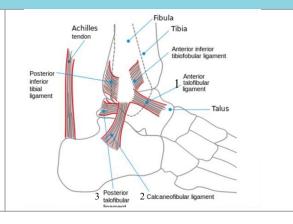
Lateral Collateral Ligament Complex

MRI is choice to determine which ligament is injured

Most commonly injured ligaments are:

- 1. Anterior talofibular ligament (ATFL) الرباط الكاحلي الشظوي الأمامي To test it do it with plantarflexion
- 2. **Calcaneofibular ligament (CFL)** الرباط العظمي الشظوي to test it do it with dorsiflexion
- 3. Posterior talofibular ligament (PTFL).
- 4. **"Anterior drawer test is +",** Compare with normal side.

Most common cause of instability is Lateralization of the talus



Management²

RICE: Rest, Ice, Compression, Elevation

- Apply Back-slab splints for few days جبيرة جبس خلفية if not able to weight bear.
- Might use protection with **brace** رباط ضاغط
- Early physiotherapy الا لو كان). and strengthening العلاج الطبيعي complete tear or unstablitiy)
- Mostly heal without surgery (75% of cases)
- Surgery: if physiotherapy fails and there is clear instability.or if there is complete tear
- PRICES: recent view = Protection ³, relative Rest, Ice, Compression, Elevation and support
- After the Treatment, Do MRI to assess prognosis.
- In summary, We sometimes apply back-slab splint for few days (**10 days**), then start early physiotherapy immediately, but we try to minimize using this option due to complications of cast applying like stiffness and muscle weakness



¹⁻ always compare, since it might be hyperlaxity

²⁻Always start with conservative, even if you are treating a professional athlete.

³⁻Splints are better than back slap casts because you can wear/remove splint anytime and splints allow dorsiflexion and plantar flexion movements

Osteochondral Defects of Talus¹ (OCD)





- Damage at localized areas of Talar articular cartilage.
- Lack of blood supply is often **post traumatic**, but occasionally No cause can be found.
- A local cartilage and varying depth of underneath bone are involved and may separate of main talus inside the ankle joint.
- Usually² postero-medial part of dome of talus. Bcs commonest sprains happen in inversion, which leads the tibia to impact the talus.
- Localized pain on weight bearing and even at rest may be present. Joint line tenderness especially in plantar- flexion + on & off swelling with walking a lot. المريض يقول رجلي تنتفخ مع المشي وترجع طبيعية " العلامة المهمة

Imaging

Plain AP X-ray: lesion is suspected



CT (bony injury)Coronal view: lesion highly suspected



MRI: lesion is confirmed



Bone is white highly sclerotic (marble-like) indicating loss of blood supply, OCD you need to know

Very fragile and easily broken.

- Most common area is postero-medial part of dome of talus
- Best investigation to detect it is MRI

MRI with contrast the bone is white, and the lesion is black, due to loss of blood supply. Modality of

choice

Management³

- 1- If less than 1 cm very good prognosis
- 2- Above 1 cm high risk of Arthritis, bad prognosis

Depends on:

- Symptoms: pain and recurrent swelling. 1.
- 2. Size of OCD: large and Loose
- Loose fragment (urgent surgery within few weeks "injury to cartilage *Calcaneum*") 3.
- Arthroscopic debridement تنضير المفصل of the lesion and drilling of its base. Better with minimally invasive + must be in certain site.
- **Fixation with headless screw** of large OCD with large bony part. For big pieces
- Ankle injury resulting in loss of bone and cartilage in talus. 1.
- 2. 50% of cases
- doesn't heal by itself, since it's avascular 3.
- 90% of cases are managed by Arthroscopic debridement

Diabetic Foot



- **Neuropathy** (nerve damage): Long term diabetes or failure to control diabetes. Sign of poor control
- Numbness, tingling and reduced sensation of the feet.
- Associated **Decreased circulation** (neuropathy, calcification of vessels, CAD).
- May result in delayed healing, Infection, Gangrene and Amputation.
- How diabetes exactly causes neuropathy? By accumulation of sorbitol (sugar substitute)

in nerves, that's happening in UNCONTROLLED DM



Care of Feet in Diabetes

Primary target: Prevention:

- 1. Blood sugar control. Best indicator H1AC should be less than 7
- 2. Daily self-inspection of feet is mandatory.
- 3. Member of the family or assistant should do it.
- 4. Regular inspections by healthcare personnel should be arranged.
- 5. A visit to a doctor should take place immediately whenever any complication occurs
- 6. If there's ulcer, orthopedic surgeon, general surgeon, plastic surgeon and vascular surgeon are working as a team to treat it

Surgery in Diabetic Foot

You have to make sure the blood supply is good before do the surgery

- Skilled care of wounds and ulcers in diabetic foot is required.
- Wound debridement تتضير الجرح, antibiotics and repeated dressing should be done.
- Amputations¹ rare may become necessary when there is Gangrene.
- > Toe amputation or ray amputation, forefoot amputation, below or above knee amputation.

Charcot Foot²

- Significant nerve damage to the foot leads to:
- 1. The bones of the foot become weak.
- 2. Joints inflamed, swollen as if infected and lax.
- Walking on the foot leads to disintegration and collapse of the joints and deformity:
 such as Rocker-bottom deformity قدم روحاء مقوسة .





After long standing diabetes

- Any disorder which lead to Neuropathy.
- There is decreased sensation and decreased ability to feel temperature, pain or trauma
- no pain

1- Our aim is to avoid amputation

²⁻bone degeneration due to loss of blood supply, in diabetics تتقتت العظام مثل الطبشورة

³⁻Doctor said that it's a complex mechanism that we are NOT required to know, but in general it's neuropathy at first, then nerves send signals that they require more blood to regain function, so this will cause hyper perfusion of blood to the foot and will increase bone resorption as well, leading to new bone growth.

Charcot Foot Clinical Picturë



Look: Foot is red or dusky in color. There's swelling in the area and deformity.

Often mistaken by osteomyelitis. To differentiate we do **elevation test** we raise the leg up for 20 minutes, If persistent redness and swelling it is infection if redness and swelling subside it is Charcot foot.

- Feel: NO Pain or soreness, warmness of foot.
- Move: decreased ROM.
- X-ray changes are important to detect and interpret;
 - <u>Early</u>: NO changes.
 - **Later**: haziness, osteopenia, irregular joint destruction, subluxation or even dislocation.
- X-Rays: NO fracture. You have to rule it out.

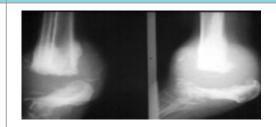
Diabetic Foot



then reconstruction.

Osteolysis of callus and talus ,There's amputation of big toe

Advanced Case of Charcot



Talus and calcaneus almost gone

Diagnosis

- Good history¹ and clinical examination.
- Awareness.
- Exclusion of other causes which may give similar picture: like infection or tumor.
- MRI, bone scans can help.
- MRI/ CT to differentiate between Charcot and osteomyelitis

Management



Staging: development (little osteopenia), then destruction, then absorption

Non-Surgical Management of Charcot Foot

- Immobilization
- **Custom Shoes** and Bracing we don't do cast because it might cause ulcers in a diabetic patient with neuropathy
 - Activity modification

Surgery in Charcot Foot Goal: 90 degree Foot

Usually we wait for 1.5 or 2 years (because the bone is already متقتت that why not benefit)until reach last stage(by bone scan) then we do reconstruction of ankle or foot depending on area





[we don't do surgery until blood sugar is controlled]

Amputation in Charcot foot

- May be indicated as a last option.
- Mainly when there is severe instability which cannot be controlled by surgery or orthosis تقويم العظام
- Also when surgery fails to achieve stability.
- Presence of refractory infection increase the possibility of amputation.

439 SUMMARY

| | 433 30MMAN I | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------|-----------------|------------------|---|--|--|
| | -Reduction in longitudinal arches of the foot,PainlessInjury of the posterior tibialis tendon causes acute flat foot. | | Flexible | Rigid | Т | | |
| | -Hind foot:increase valgus, midfoot:lack of arch, forefoot:abduction. | | Extreme vulgus | Extreme valgus | | | |
| | | Standing on tiptoes | Valgus to varus | Not move | | | |
| Flat foot | | Subtalar motion | Normal | Reduce or absent | t | | |
| | -Management:always start conservative,foot exercises,orthotics and | Etiology | Ligament laxity | Tarsal coalition | | | |
| | good shoes. | | | | | | |
| | -Surgery:Rigid foot, painful flat foot with complications or acute flat foot. | | | | | | |
| | -Lateral deviation of big toe, usually at the metatarsal joint, associated with bunion, severe if interferes with shoe wear. -Hallux valgus angle: between 1st metatarsal and proximal phalanx, normal <15 | | | | | | |
| Hallux valgus | -1st intertarsal angle:between 1st metatarsal and 2nd metatarsal,normal <10 -Hallux interphalangeus: between proximal and distal phalanges,normal<8 | | | | | | |
| Tractax vargus | -Management:suitable shoe wear,avoidance tight shoe wear and protection to the bunionsSurgery is reserved for symptomatic and distributing cases | | | | | | |
| | -Surgery is reserved for symptomatic and distributing cases | | | | | | |
| | -Localized tenderness to insertion of plantar fascia into calcaneum. | | | | | | |
| | -Xray shows calcaneal spur at plantar fascia insertion sitestabbing heel pain when patient puts foot to the ground first step in the morning and gets less after some | | | | | | |
| Plantar fasciitis | walking -Management:mainly conservative, stretching exercises,soft heel insoles, shock wave therapy and local steroid | | | | | | |
| | injectionNo surgery | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | -History of twisting injury, pain swelling and bruising around ankle,dorsiflexion and plantar flexion possible, but inversion and eversion very painful. | | | | | | |
| | -Positive anterior drawer test. | | | | | | |
| Ankle sprains | -Xray: rule out fracture -Most common injured ligaments are :anterior talofibular ligament and calcaneofibular ligament. | | | | | | |
| | -Lateralization of the talus is the most common cause of instabilityManagement: | | | | | | |
| | Start with RICE apply back slab splint | | | | | | |
| | Might use brace for protection Early physiotherapy | | | | | | |
| | -Surgery:if physiotherapy fails and there is clear instability. | | | | | | |
| | - damage at localized areas of talar articular cartilage,caused by lack of blood supply is often post traumatic,usually postero-medial part of dome of talus. | | | | | | |
| Osteo-chondra Defect | -Localized pain on weight bearing and even at rest may be present. Joint line tenderness especially in plantar- flexion + on & off swelling with walking a lot. | | | | | | |
| Of | -Best investigation is MRI | | | | | | |
| Talus | -Management depends on: symptoms, size and loose fragment Arthroscopic debridement | | | | | | |
| | fixation with headless screw | | | | | | |
| | caused by Neuropathy,by accumulation of the sorbitol Numbness, tingling and reduce sensation of the feet | | | | | | |
| Diabetic foot | Prevention:Blood sugar control(H1AC < 7) | lomont | | | | | |

Charcot foot

Significant nerve damage to foot leads to:weak bones,inflamed and swollen,caused by any disorder leads to neuropathy.

To differentiate between infection and charcot we do elevation test.

Surgery:wound and ulcer in diabetic foot require surgery ,wound debridement

X Ray:early no changes, late: haziness, rule out fracture.

Management:

We start with non surgical: immobilization, custom shoes and bracing and activity modification, we wait for 1.5 or 2 years until reach last stage, then we do reconstruction of ankle (we don't do surgery until blood sugar is controlled), last choice is amputation.



Q1: Which of the following movements is reduced in rigid pes planus?

Plantarflexion/Do rsiflexion

Inversion/Eversion

Internal/External rotation

All of the above

Q2: At which angle is Hallux Valgus considered moderate?

A ≤15°

16-25°

26-35°

D ≥36°

Q3: What's the modality of choice used to diagnose Osteochondral defects of the talus?

U/S

X-ray

CT-scan

MRI

Q4: Tightness in which of the following muscles is associated with Plantar Fasciitis?

Soleus

Gastrocnemius

Posterior tibialis Flexor hallucis longus

SAQs

1:B 2:C 3:D 4:B

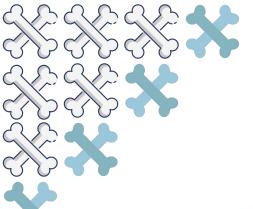
439 & 441 F1 & A:

1. Name Two tests used to differentiate between flexible and rigid flat foot?

Standing on tiptoe Subtalar movement

2. What are the angles used to assess the severity of Hallux Va

Hallux Valgus angle Intermetatarsal angle Hallux Interphalangeal angle









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وفّقكم الله

