

# 7 Things You Need To Know Before Choosing A Podiatrist

Your most pressing question now is probably, “What podiatrist should I go to that will help me with my foot and ankle pain?” With so many different options, the decision can be a daunting one. Here are a few things to consider when choosing a podiatrist to help ensure that your experience is an enjoyable and effective one. We provide this information to all of our new patients to help them avoid negative experiences that unfortunately do happen in our industry.

## 1. Do They Spend Quality Time With Patients?

With today’s health insurance system many doctor’s offices try to get as many patients in and out as quickly as possible. We have taken a different approach, and make sure that you never feel rushed or unappreciated. Our podiatrists spend quality time with you, and answer all of your questions and concerns. They will do a thorough examination to determine the cause of your foot or ankle pain, and present the best treatment options to you, in a clear manner that is easy for you to understand.

## 2. Do They Have Patient Reviews That You Can See?

Some of the most important and valuable information a podiatrist can provide are testimonials. Testimonials are an excellent assessment tool for you, the potential patient. Ask to read about success stories about the methods of treatment, the office, and the podiatrists. Were their patients enthusiastic about their results? Have they recommended this practice to their friends and family? The Beltsville Foot And Ankle Center has treated over 72,800 patients and you can read some of their experiences [here](#).

### **3. Are They Board Certified?**

You should look for podiatrists that are certified by the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery. Don't be shy. Ask your potential podiatrist about which certifications they hold. All of our podiatrists at The Beltsville Foot And Ankle Center are Certified by the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery. Read our podiatrist bios [here](#).

### **4. Is Their Office Equipped With The Latest Technology?**

Is the podiatrist's office equipped with the latest technology to be able to offer you the most advanced up-to-date treatment options? Our office is the picture of warmth and caring and includes four exam rooms, a surgical suite, digital x-rays, and diagnostic ultrasound. Advanced state-of-the-art equipment makes us by far one of the more modern facilities able to handle any type of podiatric patient. You can read more about our technology [here](#).

### **5. Do They Rush To Foot & Ankle Surgery As A First Option?**

Is the podiatrist an alarmist and rush to perform surgery, or do they exhaust all conservative treatment options first and only recommend surgery as a last resort? We have developed treatment protocols for the most common foot conditions based on our experience and we usually start with conservative treatment and add on additional treatments/therapies based on the patient's response to the initial treatment. Rarely surgery is the only or first option.

### **6. Do They Thoroughly Explain Your Options In An Easy To Understand Manner?**

Does the podiatrist take the time to understand your needs and listen to your questions and concerns? We use a dry erase board and foot models to thoroughly explain your condition and how it came about to help you understand how we can make you better. We show and explain x-rays and ultrasound images, we watch you walk, notice your relaxed stance, test muscles and joints for strength and movement, and we examine your shoes. All of these things factor in to the best treatment.

## 7. Do They Accept Most Health Insurance Plans?

You want to find a podiatrist that accepts many different health insurance plans and works with the insurance providers to maximize your health insurance benefits. In a time of high deductibles and coinsurance, we take the time to check each patient's insurance benefits and explain to them the cost of their treatment. We do not want to charge anyone for services they are unable or unwilling to pay. When necessary we will recommend less expensive "over the counter" options.

## **BONUS 8<sup>th</sup> ...**

## 8. Do They Have a Family Friendly Practice?

Does the podiatrist treat only adults over the age of 18 or do they treat patients of all ages including children? We are a family friendly practice who accepts patients of all ages. We have treated many children over the years and go the extra mile to make them feel comfortable and relaxed.

## Conclusion

We wrote this guide to help you better understand foot and ankle care. Now, with this information, you can make an informed, intelligent decision.

Thank you very much for reading. I hope you found this resource helpful. If you have any questions or comments – or if you would like to schedule your appointment, please contact us at 301-937-5666 or you can request an appointment online [here](#).

Sincerely,

**Dr. Diebolt, Dr. Beck, and Staff at The Beltsville Foot And Ankle Center**

