

E-Pearl of the Week

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Positive neuropathic sensory symptoms

Paresthesias and pain are positive neuropathic sensory symptoms. The presence or absence of these positive symptoms is an important clue as to whether a polyneuropathy is inherited or acquired. This is because the vast majority of acquired neuropathies, such as diabetes, are accompanied by positive sensory symptoms whereas the majority of inherited polyneuropathies, such as Charcot-Marie-Tooth, are not. Patients with Charcot-Marie-Tooth, for example, will have sensory deficits on examination but typically won't have paresthesias or other positive symptoms. These Charcot-Marie-Tooth patients might have *negative* neuropathic sensory symptoms, such as *loss* of sensation, but it's unusual for them to have the positive symptoms.

Submitted by Ted Burns, MD

Disclosure: Dr. Burns receives a stipend as Podcast Editor for Neurology®, performs EMG studies in his neuromuscular practice (30% effort), and received compensation for a presentation on MG-QOL15, given to study investigators of eculizumab in myasthenia gravis.