The beautiful feet of neuropathy

Figure Thin ankles and hammer toes in a patient with inherited neuropathy

(A) Painting of the patient by Diego Rivera over 50 years ago. (B) Close-up detail of the patient's feet in the painting. (C) Current photograph of the patient's feet 4 years after onset of symptoms. Painting reprinted with permission.

An 80-year-old woman with a 4-year history of numbness and pain in her feet was the subject of a painting by Diego Rivera over 50 years ago. The artist told her that she had the most beautiful feet he had ever seen. Given the nature of her symptoms, foot appearance, positive family history, and otherwise negative workup, hereditary sensory and autonomic neuropathy type I was diagnosed.

The painting demonstrates that stigmata of inherited neuropathy are not only beautiful in an artist's eyes but can be present half a decade before symptom onset (figure).

Wolfgang Singer, MD, JaNean K. Engelstad, and P. James B. Dyck, MD, Rochester, MN

Disclosure: The authors report no disclosures.

Address correspondence and reprint requests to Dr. P. James B. Dyck, Department of Neurology, Mayo Clinic, 200 First Street SW, Rochester, MN 55905; dyck.pjames@mayo.edu

Neurology®

The beautiful feet of neuropathy

Wolfgang Singer, JaNean K. Engelstad and P. James B. Dyck

Neurology 2009;72;1281

DOI 10.1212/01.wnl.0000345657.95064.b0

This information is current as of April 6, 2009

Updated Information & Services

including high resolution figures, can be found at:
<http://n.neurology.org/content/72/14/1281.full>

Subspecialty Collections

This article, along with others on similar topics, appears in the following collection(s):

Clinical neurology examination

http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/clinical_neurology_examination

Peripheral neuropathy

http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/peripheral_neuropathy

Permissions & Licensing

Information about reproducing this article in parts (figures, tables) or in its entirety can be found online at:

http://www.neurology.org/about/about_the_journal#permissions

Reprints

Information about ordering reprints can be found online:

<http://n.neurology.org/subscribers/advertise>

Neurology® is the official journal of the American Academy of Neurology. Published continuously since 1951, it is now a weekly with 48 issues per year. Copyright . All rights reserved. Print ISSN: 0028-3878. Online ISSN: 1526-632X.