

# 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).

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