



HOW PHYSICAL THERAPY HELPS PELVIC HEALTH

Are you experiencing pain in your intimate areas? Have you struggled with incontinence? For some, it can be challenging to talk about these types of struggles. At Atlanta Human Performance Center, we are musculoskeletal experts and work with people experiencing difficulties in all body regions.

Our highly trained team uses the most advanced strategies to help alleviate the pain and restore normal function of the bowel and urinary systems. We also help people experiencing pain during sex and experiencing dysfunction in sexual performance.

Everyone has a pelvic floor, and learning how to resolve issues can significantly impact your overall well-being. At Atlanta Human Performance Center, our team works with all types of problems affecting the pelvic region regardless of gender identity.

Request an appointment with one of our specialists so we can help you find relief!

WHAT IS THE PELVIC FLOOR?

The pelvic floor is a term used to describe the region located in the bottom aspect of the pelvis. The pelvic floor is a complex system that works with the structures and systems in the pelvic cavity and the body.

The pelvic floor is supported by several muscles that also provide several essential functions, including supporting the organs found in the pelvis, bladder and bowel control, and sexual function. Impairments in muscle function can lead to pain and dysfunction.

The ability to contract the pelvic floor correctly can be affected by several factors, including:

- Weakened bladder muscles resulting from pregnancy, childbirth, obesity, and aging
- Physical damage to your pelvic floor muscles from childbirth or surgery
- Damage to the nerves from health problems like diabetes and multiple sclerosis
- Enlarged prostate
- Types of cancer
- Certain medications
- Trauma (physical, psychological/emotional)

Strong pelvic floor muscles are essential with activities where an extra force is added to the abdomen and pelvic floor (i.e., coughing, laughing, sneezing, and lifting). When these muscles are weak or not working as they should, pelvic floor dysfunction may occur. Fortunately, our Doctors of Physical Therapy know how to identify the factors contributing to your problems and, more importantly, how to resolve them!

WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON ISSUES PEOPLE FACE?

The pelvic floor muscles are needed for sexual function, urination, and defecation. Impairments are often ignored early on due to the difficulties of talking about this region of our

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body. We understand people's difficulties, but it is important to note that addressing an issue when it first starts will often lead to a quick resolution and the most complete recovery.

Women experience pelvic floor conditions, including painful menstrual periods, painful urination, and urinary incontinence. The impairments will even lead to pelvic organ prolapse and chronic pelvic pain for some.

Men often don't know about the pelvic floor until there is a problem. The most common issues include urinary dysfunction after prostate cancer treatments. Typically these symptoms range from some leaking to complete loss of bladder control or irritation/discomfort when urinating. Pelvic floor dysfunction for some may lead to erectile dysfunction.

Fortunately, our Doctors of Physical Therapy are trained in pelvic rehab no matter your gender and can help you resolve any issue you may be experiencing.



HOW PHYSICAL THERAPY CAN HELP

Our therapists at Atlanta Human Performance Center tailor our programs to the individual using research-backed, comprehensive treatment programs. We will conduct a thorough history and physical examination to identify all the possible factors contributing to your condition.

Evaluating the strength of the pelvic floor muscles includes assessing your ability to willfully contract your muscles and also identifying your ability to generate power and sustain a contraction. It is also essential to test your contraction speed and your ability to relax on command.

We will use this information to develop an individualized program focusing on helping you resolve your pain and restore your function. Our pelvic floor treatments include:

- Soft tissue mobilization and massage of internal and external pelvic musculature to relieve muscle tension and provide pain relief
- Pelvic floor muscle retraining to restore normal strength and endurance
- Neuro-retraining (i.e., incorporating pelvic floor muscle activation during simulated daily activities)
- Electrical stimulation modalities for pain relief and to restore normal neuromuscular activation of the pelvic floor muscles and nerves
- Bladder training (i.e., gradually holding urine for longer and longer periods)

Our team will educate you on home exercises and simple movements that you can build into your everyday activities. We believe that teaching you strategies to manage and improve your pelvic health is the key to lasting results.

REQUEST AN APPOINTMENT

At Atlanta Human Performance Center, our Doctors of Physical Therapy can help with incontinence, pelvic pain, and sexual dysfunction, whether your condition results from reconstruction surgery, abdominal surgery, prostate cancer treatments, pregnancy, or childbirth. No matter what it is, we most likely treat it.

Contact our clinic today and request an appointment with one of our pelvic floor specialists!

Approaching A New Year's Resolution

Setting a resolution for the New Year is a great way to set yourself up for success. Resolutions give you direction and help you get things done. But how do you set a resolution? What if the resolution is too hard to achieve? What if you don't know what your resolution should be?

It's essential to start with small achievable goals that will lead to bigger ones. When you're crafting your New Year's Resolution this season, keep these 8 tips in mind.

1. Start with a list of what you want from life and the most important things to you.
2. Choose one aspect of your life that you would like to improve from this list. This could be anything from your physical fitness to learning a new skill.
3. Write down your goal every day for a month to keep yourself accountable.
4. Break down large goals into smaller ones so that they are more manageable and less intimidating.
5. Resolutions should be specific, making it easier to track your progress.
6. Your goals should be realistic and attainable but also challenging enough to push you out of your comfort zone.
7. A resolution should have deadlines, so there is a sense of urgency and accountability.
8. Pick a goal that will bring you joy. If your resolution brings you a sense of accomplishment or happiness, you're more likely to stick with it.





HEALTH TIPS

With Dr. Keith E. Evans, MD, PT, DPT, DN CERT. CEO/Director of Atlanta Human Performance Center

How To Avoid The Winter Slump

The winter blues can be triggered by seasonal affective disorder, which causes some people to experience depression during the winter months. The most common symptoms include feeling down or sad, having trouble concentrating, sleeping too much, and gaining weight.

Thankfully, there are many ways to reverse your winter slump and beat the winter blues, including:

1) Exercise more: Exercise is one of the best ways to improve your mood. It releases endorphins, which are hormones that create a sense of happiness and euphoria. Exercise also releases serotonin, a neurotransmitter that can help with feelings of anxiety, stress, and depression.

If you're not one to brave the cold weather, know that there are plenty of indoor exercises that can give you a great workout, such as yoga or pilates.

2) Socialize more: Spending time with friends and family lifts your mood and improves your mental health and self-esteem. Feelings of depression thrive when someone feels isolated, so it's crucial to surround yourself with a healthy and loving support system.

3) Take care of yourself: Get enough sleep, drink lots of water, eat healthy food and take breaks from work when needed to refresh your mind. Remember that your health is your greatest asset and should be your number one priority at all times.

4) Get a hobby: Now that it's getting colder, you're likely spending a lot more time inside. Now is the perfect time to pick up a hobby! You could learn to play an instrument, practice your drawing or painting skills, learn to sew or embroider, or start an indoor herb garden.

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WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR SUCCESS STORY!

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Who Do You Know That Needs Physical Therapy?

Do You Have Friends Or Family That Cannot:

- ✓ Move without pain
- ✓ Sit for long periods
- ✓ Bend and move freely
- ✓ Walk for long distances
- ✓ Balance confidently & securely
- ✓ Live active and healthy

CALL (404) 346-1526 TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH OUR DOCTORS OF PHYSICAL THERAPY TODAY!

BEET AND APPLE SALAD

- 4 large beets (2 1/2 pounds)
- 5 thyme sprigs
- 1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil (plus more for drizzling)
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- 1/4 cup apple-cider vinegar
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 3 tablespoons prepared horseradish
- 1 cup salted pistachios (chopped)
- 1 green apple (thinly sliced)



Preheat the oven to 375°. In a baking dish, lightly drizzle the beets and thyme with olive oil. Season with salt and pepper. Cover with foil and roast until the beets are tender, about 1 hour and 45 minutes. Let cool, then peel the beets and cut them into 3/4-inch dice.

In a large bowl, whisk the vinegar with the mustard. Whisk in the remaining 1/2 cup of oil until emulsified. Add the horseradish and season with salt and pepper; toss with the beets and apples. Transfer the beets to a platter, top with pistachios and serve.

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***NEW LOCATION OPEN**

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