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Study: diabetic neuropathy costs billions per year in lost work time

DANVILLE, PA. - Workers who have diabetes with neuropathic symptoms such as numbness or tingling in feet or hands lose the equivalent of 1.4 hours a week or \$3.65 billion per year in health-related lost productive time, a recent study finds.

The 1.4 hours lost was more than twice the amount of lost time of diabetic workers without neuropathic symptoms. For this reason, individuals with diabetes are much more likely to be unemployed.

Geisinger Center for Health Research investigators looked at 19,075 working adults, including 1,003 who were diagnosed with diabetes. Of these workers, 38% reported diabetes-related numbness or tingling in their feet or hands.

When the investigators compared health-related lost productive time, it was 18% higher in diabetics with symptoms and 5% higher in diabetics without symptoms.

Those with diabetes were about twice more likely than those without diabetes to be unemployed.

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Walter 釘uzz·Stewart and colleagues published their study in a recent edition of the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

Pfizer Incorporated supported this research.

About the Geisinger Center for Health Research

The Geisinger Center for Health Research is dedicated to translating new knowledge into effective real-world solutions, tying healthcare and business together and developing new

healthcare delivery models. The Center's investigators advance system-wide research and conduct studies in a number of areas including: healthcare effectiveness, epidemiology and disease etiology, health services and economics, behavioral health, population-based and clinical genomics and rural population needs.
