

# Western Pennsylvania Guide to Good Health

*Health News You and Your Family Can Use to Achieve Optimal Health*

**Dr. James Marks, Wound & Skin Healing Center**

## Complex Wounds Have Complex Health Needs

By Lois Thomson

"Right now, at this moment, people are walking around with untreated, non-healing wounds or foot & ankle pain," observes Dr. James Marks. Dr. Marks is medical director of The Washington Hospital's Wound & Skin Healing Center, and a podiatrist with his partner, Dr. Nicholas Lowery, in Penn Foot & Ankle Specialists, so is very aware of what's going on in this field.

He continued, "Providing optimal care is always challenging when, in the United States, we are experiencing an increasingly aging population, increasing obesity, increased at-risk populations such as diabetes, and an increase in undetected circulation conditions (Peripheral Arterial Disease, Chronic Venous Insufficiency)."

He said solid, researched evidence has shown the importance of building a "team" approach when treating patients with foot and ankle problems, Diabetic Foot Disease (Diabetic Foot Ulcers, Diabetic Foot Infections), and complex wounds. "For example, Diabetic Foot Disease is the most complex and vulnerable of all populations, and partnering with surgeons, podiatric surgeons, intervention specialists for peripheral vascular disease, and infectious disease specialists, has shown to increase quality of care and reduce amputation rates by 36 percent to 86 percent."

The Washington Hospital and the Washington Physicians Group has created a unique patient center in one location to address these conditions. Located at the

Wilfred R. Cameron Wellness Center, 204 Wellness Way, Building 1, the Wound & Skin Healing Center, with the expertise of Penn Foot & Ankle Specialists (with Dr. Marks and Dr. Lowery), is equipped to coordinate, with local physicians, the diagnosis, surgical and medical management, and preventive care of untreated non-healing wounds, or those who suffer from foot and ankle pain.

The outpatient center at Cameron Wellness Center consists of The Wound & Healing Center, Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy, and Penn Foot & Ankle Specialists.

Dr. Marks is excited to introduce the newest physician addition to the Wound & Skin Healing Center and Penn Foot & Ankle Specialists, Dr. Brandon Crim, DPM.

"Dr. Crim will join us August 1 after completing his extensive training at UPMC's Comprehensive Foot & Ankle Center in conservative and surgical treatment of the foot and ankle, with emphasis on reconstruction, diabetic limb salvage, trauma of the foot & ankle, and arthroscopy. Dr. Crim will have also completed extensive post-graduate training at the Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Foot and Ankle Division of UPMC, under the direction of Dane Wukich, MD.

"Dr. Crim's expertise in foot & ankle surgery will advance our goal to provide the best medical care in this region with state-of-the-art techniques in ankle joint replacement; Diabetic Foot Disease (ulcers, infections, and Charcot foot reconstruction); diagnosis and treatment for osteomyelitis (bone infection); limb salvage and amputation prevention; plastic surgery repair with advanced skin substitutes for faster wound healing; and sports and tendon injuries."

With the addition of Dr. Crim, as well as extensive patient education, early assessment, and aggressive treatment, The Washington



Dr. Brandon Crim, DPM, will join the Wound & Skin Healing Center and Penn Foot & Ankle Specialists August 1. Dr. Crim earned a Doctorate of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery from the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine in Cleveland. He is currently doing a fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Foot and Ankle Division, and in 2011 completed his Foot and Ankle Surgical Residency at UPMC. Dr. Crim is licensed to practice in Pennsylvania and is a member of the American Podiatric Medical Association and the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons.

He is the author of numerous articles, including in such publications as The Journal of Foot and Ankle Surgery, Journal of Diabetic Foot Complications, and Pittsburgh Orthopedic Journal. In addition, Dr. Crim has presented a variety of lectures and instructional training courses.

Hospital offers an answer to all patients who are walking around with untreated non-healing wounds or foot and ankle pain.

> For more information about HBO and other treatments for chronic wounds, contact the **Wound & Skin Healing Center** at (724) 223-6903. For appointments for foot and ankle conditions, contact **Penn Foot & Ankle Specialists** at (724) 222-5635 or visit [www.pennfoot.com](http://www.pennfoot.com)

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