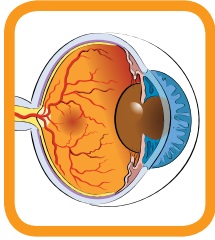


DIABETES

How type 2 diabetes can affect your body



Your eyes



Diabetes can cause health problems that affect different parts of the body. Be sure to have your eyes checked by an eye doctor at least once a year.

Diabetes can damage your eyes

and is the leading cause of blindness among adults. It may cause these common eye problems: diabetic retinopathy (reh-tin-AH-path-ee), cataracts (CAT-uh-racts), and glaucoma (glau-CO-mah). Controlling your blood sugar (also called blood glucose) can help prevent or delay eye problems.

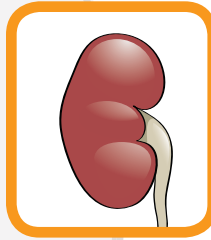
Your mouth



See your dentist twice a year and be sure to remind him or her that you have diabetes. People with diabetes are more likely to have problems with their teeth and gums. Diabetes can lead to

red, sore, or swollen gums that bleed when you brush your teeth. Other problems include bad breath, gum disease, and tooth loss.

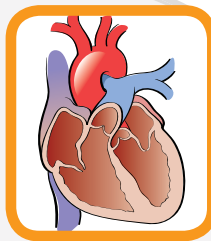
Your kidneys



Talk with your health care provider about kidney disease and what you can do to prevent it. Diabetes is the main cause of kidney disease and kidney failure. Controlling your blood sugar

level and blood pressure can help prevent or delay kidney disease.

Your heart



Talk to your health care provider about ways to lower your risk of heart disease. Disease of the heart and blood vessels, known as cardiovascular (car-dee-oh-VAS-kyuh-ler) disease, is a major

cause of death in people with diabetes. People with type 2 diabetes are up to 4 times more likely to have heart disease and stroke than people without diabetes.

Managing your diabetes can help prevent or delay other health problems.

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Your nervous system

Controlling your blood sugar can help prevent or delay nerve damage and related problems. Up to 70% of people with diabetes have nerve damage, called neuropathy (new-ROP-uh-thee). This damage may cause loss of feeling in the feet, hands, and legs. Nerve damage may also cause problems with digestion (the process of breaking down the food you eat), the bladder, and the heart and can cause erectile dysfunction (ED).

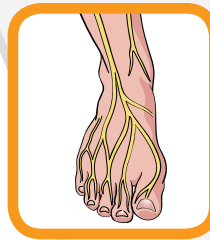


It is important to work with your health care provider to review all your treatment options and make a plan that is best for you.

Your sexual function

Talk openly with your health care provider about any sexual problems you might be having and what you can do to prevent or treat them. Diabetes increases the risk of sexual problems, including erectile dysfunction, little or no sexual desire, and vaginal dryness.

Your feet



Talk to your health care provider right away if you notice any problems with your feet. Nerve damage, circulation (blood flow) problems, and infections can cause serious foot problems. In severe cases these can lead to amputation (AM-pu-TA-tion) (removal) of part of or the entire leg. In many cases amputations can be prevented with regular checkups. Be sure to check your feet every day for cuts, sores, bruises, dry cracks, redness, loss of feeling, and other signs of infection.

For other health information, visit MerckSource® at mercksource.com.

