



# BUSINESS BIO

Advertising Feature

## Kurtis Hort, MD

**Brings Knowledge and Experience**

**to Foot and Ankle Center at**

**Orthopaedic Associates of St. Augustine**

Statistics indicate that more than 75% of Americans will experience foot or ankle pain at some time during their life. Excessive weight, diabetes, circulation problems and improper footwear are all factors that can contribute to foot pain.

In addition, unexpected foot and ankle emergencies happen every day and are another cause of foot pain. Broken bones, dislocations, sprains, contusions, infections and other serious injuries can occur at any time.

Fortunately, there is the Foot & Ankle Center at Orthopaedic Associates. It is the only facility in St. Johns County that combines the best of both orthopaedics and podiatric medicine to treat patients suffering foot pain.

The skilled and experienced team of orthopaedic surgeon Kurtis Hort and podiatrist Beth Pearce are able to handle all of your family's foot ailments. Dr. Hort specializes in disorders of the foot, ankle and lower extremities.

As a board certified podiatrist (ABPOPPM), Dr. Pearce specializes in heel pain, diabetic foot and wound care, non-surgical alternatives for lower extremity pain and corrective foot surgery.

Dr. Hort is board certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery and is fellowship trained in foot and ankle reconstruction. As an orthopaedic surgeon, Dr. Hort can also evaluate the knees, hips and even the lower back, all of which might be contributing factors to foot pain.

He is an honors graduate of Dickinson College, received his Medical Degree from Temple University School of Medicine in Philadelphia, served his residency at the University of Florida and was fellowship-trained at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville in lower extremity reconstruction and complex foot and ankle surgery.

After going to school and completing his training in Florida, Dr. Hort decided he enjoyed living here and joined the staff at Orthopaedic Associates of St. Augustine in 2001.

"After I completed my fellowship, I looked around the area," Dr. Hort explained. "I liked North Florida and I found Al and James (Dr. Albert Volk and Dr. James Grimes, founders of Orthopaedic Associates of St. Augustine)

were considering hiring somebody and it just worked out. I love the area. I live in a place where other people come on vacation. It doesn't get any better than that."

From an early age, Dr. Hort knew that he wanted to become a doctor. It was while he was in college that he decided to pursue the specialty of orthopaedic surgery.

"I wanted to be a doctor from the time I was about 14 years old. Originally I was interested in forensic pathology because I liked the TV show Quincy. When I went to medical school, I seemed to fall in with the orthopaedic surgeons. We were stereotypically athletic and I played basketball with them. I became interested in surgery because I enjoy working with my hands and orthopaedics is truly a hands-on specialty."

Dr. Hort is well known in the field of orthopaedic surgery of the foot and ankle and has been called on to lecture in the U.S. and abroad. Last year, he lectured at an international Lower Extremity Bioskills Course in Helsinki, Finland. Dr. Hort was one of the leading experts instructing orthopaedic surgeons from around the world at "Lower Extremity, Orthopaedic Challenges and Solutions."

He also gave a lecture in 2008 as part of an orthopaedic medical conference in Miami Beach, FL. Dr. Hort spoke about calcaneal fractures in a lecture titled "What's New with Calcaneal Fractures?"

Orthopaedic Associates of St. Augustine hosted a medical seminar in 2008, "Advanced Technology in Foot and Ankle Surgery." The course was taught by Dr. Hort, and Robert Anderson, MD with OrthoCarolina and highlighted the newest technologies and procedures in orthopaedic surgery of the foot and ankle.

The Foot & Ankle Center at Orthopaedic Associates is the only place you need to go if you are experiencing foot pain. Dr. Hort and Dr. Pearce have the experience and knowledge to provide unsurpassed professional care.

"I think our setup here with Dr. Pearce, who is a podiatrist, is a really great team and I just don't think that is offered many places - where you can get the podiatric view of things and the orthopaedic distinction."

Dr. Hort explained that while a podiatrist can help with many foot problems, having a team that includes an orthopaedic surgeon offers a distinct advantage over a podiatrist alone.

"The difference between an orthopaedic surgeon and the podiatrist is just a vast amount of training orthopaedic surgeons have in all of the body's joints. Orthopaedic residency is five years, medical school is four



**Dr. Kurtis Hort**

years before that and fellowship is a year more after that. So, it is just a lot more time learning what you are doing.

"The distinction I have, versus other doctors in town that take care of foot and ankle problems, is that I am also trained in everything else orthopedically - the back, the hips, the knees and how that all works together."

If foot pain is bothering you, don't ignore it. Dr. Hort explains that if you let something go, it may become more serious.

"I think it is always good to come in and get things looked at. You never know. Occasionally you find bad things. Sometimes if it is ignored, it could turn into something that is significant and occasionally even life threatening."

Orthopaedic Associates of St. Augustine is located at One Orthopaedic Place, on the Intracoastal, just east of Flagler Hospital. Their second location is at 3055 CR-210 West in the northern part of St. John's County. Hours of operation for both locations are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is also an After Hours Injury Clinic at the St. Augustine location that is open Monday through Friday from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.



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