POSITION STATEMENT

American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons®
Proven leaders. Lifelong learners. Changing lives.

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Complementary and Alternative Medicine

Approved by the ACFAS Board of Directors, July 2024

The American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS) represents board-certified or qualified podiatric foot and ankle surgeons. ACFAS urges its members and their patients to use guidance related to complementary, alternative medicine (CAM) and integrative health.

ACFAS recognizes that there are different types of practitioners and proponents of the various forms of alternative and conventional medicine. ACFAS recommends that the same principles and standards of evidence of treatment effectiveness apply to all treatments, whether currently labeled as conventional medicine or CAM. Implementing this recommendation requires that investigators use and develop as necessary common methods, measures, and standards for the generation and interpretation of evidence necessary for making decisions about the use of CAM and conventional therapies.

The National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH) is the Federal Government's lead agency for scientific research on complementary and integrative health approaches. It is one of the 27 Institutes, Centers, and Offices that make up the National Institutes of Health (NIH) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. [1]

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Patients considering using complementary, alternative or integrative health approaches should consult with their physician or other healthcare professional. Patient resources can be found on the NCCIH website[2].

The American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons is a professional society of over 8,200 foot and ankle surgeons. Founded in 1942, the College's mission is to advance excellence in foot and ankle surgery to achieve superior patient outcomes.

1. https://www.nccih.nih.gov/about
2. https://www.nccih.nih.gov/health/complementary-alternative-or-integrative-health-whats-in-a-name