Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention

Leading the effort to treat and prevent diabetes in American Indians and Alaska Natives

Vibration Sensation Exam [audio transcript]

Then we can perform the optional tuning fork examination.

Approximately ten to fifteen percent of people who can feel the monofilament are still at high risk for developing foot problems.

Accordingly, some experts recommend performing a sensory examination other than the monofilament, if you have a normal monofilament exam.

The Indian Health Service recommends using the tuning fork.

To perform the tuning fork exam, tap the tuning fork against the ball of your hand. And apply it to one of the great toe bones, applying it to the tip.

And have the patient acknowledge "yes" when they feel the vibration stop.

"Yes" (patient)

A normal exam is when the examiner and the patient feel it stop at the same time.

You can also apply it to the great toe joint, on top of the toe.

"Yes" (patient)

And that is a normal exam.