## Orthotics for hockey Milton J. Stern, DPM

Orthotics can play a beneficial role in supporting the feet and enhancing performance for hockey players. Here are some key points to consider regarding orthotics for hockey:



Custom Orthotics: <u>Custom orthotics</u> are often recommended for athletes, including hockey players, as they are specifically designed to meet individual needs. These orthotics are created based on a detailed assessment of the player's feet, gait pattern, and any specific issues or imbalances.

**Arch Support and Stability:** Hockey involves a significant amount of running, jumping, and quick changes in direction. **Orthotics** can provide arch support, improve stability, and distribute the forces evenly across the feet, reducing the risk of foot fatigue, discomfort, and injuries.

**Pronation and Supination Control:** Some hockey players may have issues with overpronation (foot rolling inward excessively) or oversupination (foot rolling



outward excessively). <u>Orthotics</u> can help correct these biomechanical imbalances, providing better alignment and reducing stress on the feet and lower limbs.

Shock Absorption: The constant impact and high-intensity movements in hockey can put strain on the feet and joints. Orthotics with shock-absorbing properties can help reduce the impact forces, minimizing the risk of injuries such as stress fractures and plantar fasciitis.

**Proper Boot Fit:** Hockey skates are designed to be tight-fitting to provide optimal control and responsiveness. However, this can sometimes lead to discomfort or pressure points. **Orthotics** can help alleviate these issues by providing cushioning and redistributing the pressure within the skate.

**Injury Prevention:** Orthotics can aid in preventing common hockey-related foot and lower limb injuries, such as Achilles tendonitis, shin splints, and ankle

sprains. By providing support and proper alignment, orthotics can help reduce excessive stress on the affected areas.

It's important to note that the best approach is to consult with a sports podiatrist or orthopedic specialist who can evaluate your specific needs and recommend the most suitable orthotics for your feet and playing style. They will take into account factors such as foot structure, biomechanics, any existing injuries or conditions, and your hockey-specific requirements to provide customized orthotic solutions