

How Long Does Nerve Pain Last After a Car Accident?

Why Nerve Injuries from Crashes Can Be So Difficult to Heal

[Car accidents in Georgia](#) often cause injuries that are immediately obvious, like broken bones or deep cuts. But some of the most painful and frustrating injuries are the ones you cannot see: nerve injuries. Nerve pain after a crash can linger for months or even become a permanent part of your life.

If you are struggling with burning, tingling, numbness, or sharp shooting pain long after your accident, you are not alone. Nerve damage is a common outcome of serious collisions, and it often disrupts work, daily activities, and emotional well-being.

At the [Law Offices of Gary Martin Hays & Associates, P.C.](#), our car accident lawyers help crash victims across Georgia get the care and compensation they need when nerve injuries turn their lives upside down. Here is what you should know about how long nerve pain might last after a car wreck, what factors affect recovery, and how you can protect your rights with help from an attorney.

How Do Car Accidents Cause Nerve Damage?

Your nervous system is an intricate network that carries messages between your brain and the rest of your body. When this system gets disrupted by trauma in a crash, the results can be complex and painful.

Nerves can be injured in several ways during a car accident:

- **Direct Trauma:** A bone fracture can cut or pinch nearby nerves. Deep lacerations from broken glass can sever nerves under the skin.
- **Compression:** Swelling, herniated discs, or scar tissue can put pressure on nerves, leading to chronic pain or numbness.
- **Stretching or Traction:** A sudden jolt can stretch nerves beyond their normal range, damaging their internal structure.
- **Inflammation:** Even if a nerve is not physically torn, surrounding tissue can become inflamed and irritate the nerve.

Common examples of nerve-related problems after car accidents include:

- **[Whiplash-Related Nerve Pain](#):** Soft tissue damage in the neck can inflame or irritate nerve roots, causing radiating pain into the shoulders or arms.
- **Sciatica:** A herniated disc in the [lower back](#) can compress the sciatic nerve, sending pain, tingling, or weakness down one leg.
- **Peripheral Neuropathy:** Damage to smaller nerves in the hands or feet can cause burning or loss of sensation.

- **Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS):** After some injuries, abnormal nerve reactions create intense pain and sensitivity that seems out of proportion to the original injury.

How Long Does Nerve Pain Last After a Car Wreck?

The short answer is that nerve pain can last weeks, months, or even become permanent. The timeline depends heavily on the type of nerve injury, how quickly it is treated, and how your individual body responds to healing.

Minor nerve irritation or inflammation

If your nerve pain comes from swelling that presses on a nerve, it may improve within several weeks once inflammation subsides. Anti-inflammatory medications, physical therapy, and gentle activity can often help reduce irritation and restore function. Many people see gradual improvement over one to three months.

Nerve compression or pinched nerves

When a disc in your spine bulges and compresses a nerve root, the pain may last longer. Some people recover within three to six months if the compression eases naturally. Others may need injections or even surgery to relieve the pressure. Without proper treatment, compression can lead to permanent nerve dysfunction.

Nerve tears or severe structural damage

If a nerve is stretched to the point of partial tearing, or if it is severed, recovery is much slower. Some nerves can regrow at a very slow pace, roughly one millimeter per day. This means even a small injury may take months to improve. In many cases, full recovery is not possible, and patients may be left with ongoing pain, numbness, or muscle weakness.

Complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS)

In rare cases, nerve injuries trigger abnormal pain signals that continue even after the original injury has healed. CRPS can become a lifelong condition that requires careful pain management and therapy. Early diagnosis is crucial to improving long-term outcomes.

Factors That Affect How Long Your Nerve Pain Might Last

No two people recover in exactly the same way. Several factors influence how long your nerve pain will continue after a car accident:

- **Severity Of The Injury:** A mildly pinched nerve often heals faster than a nerve that has been partially torn or heavily compressed.
- **Location Of The Injury:** Nerve injuries in the spinal cord or major nerve roots typically cause more lasting problems than smaller, superficial nerves.
- **Your Age And Health:** Younger, healthier people generally heal faster. Preexisting conditions like diabetes can slow nerve repair.

- **Quality Of Medical Care:** Prompt imaging, accurate diagnosis, and proper treatment like physical therapy or surgery can prevent long-term complications.
- **Your Activity Level:** Following your doctor's advice about rest versus rehabilitation is critical. Doing too much or too little can both prolong recovery.

Signs Your Nerve Pain May Be Long-Lasting

Some discomfort is expected after a car crash. But if you notice these signs weeks or months later, it could point to more serious or permanent nerve damage:

- Ongoing numbness or tingling in your arms, hands, legs, or feet
- Muscle weakness that makes it hard to grip, lift, or walk
- Sharp, electric, or burning pain that does not fade with time
- Pain that worsens at night or with certain movements
- Skin that is unusually sensitive to touch or temperature
- A sense that your foot or hand does not belong to you

If these symptoms persist, it is important to see a neurologist or pain specialist. You may need nerve conduction studies, advanced imaging, or other tests to understand the extent of the damage.

The Financial and Personal Impact of Chronic Nerve Pain

Long-lasting nerve injuries affect more than just your body. Many people with chronic nerve pain:

- Miss weeks or months of work, or cannot return to their old job at all
- Struggle with daily activities like cooking, driving, or playing with children
- Suffer from anxiety, depression, or frustration over lost independence
- Face mounting bills for ongoing treatments like injections, therapy, or surgery

When someone else's negligence caused your accident, you should not have to bear these costs alone. Georgia law allows you to pursue compensation for your medical expenses, lost income, future treatment needs, pain and suffering, and reduced quality of life. This includes the costs of long-term nerve damage that may continue for years.

How Gary Martin Hays & Associates Helps People With Nerve Injuries

Nerve injury cases are often complicated. Insurance companies may argue that your symptoms are exaggerated or caused by a preexisting condition. They might offer low settlements that do not account for future treatments or lost earning capacity.

Our law firm understands how serious nerve damage can be. We work closely with neurologists, orthopedic specialists, and vocational experts to build a complete picture of how your injury has affected your life. We make sure to document:

- All diagnostic tests showing nerve damage
- Medical records and treatment plans from your doctors
- Testimony from specialists about your long-term prognosis
- Evidence of how your pain impacts your work and daily life
- A detailed calculation of both current and future losses

We also handle all communication with insurance adjusters and defense lawyers so you can focus on healing. If the insurance company refuses to pay what is fair, we will take your case to court and fight for the compensation you deserve.

Get Georgia's Power Law Firm in Your Corner

If you are still dealing with nerve pain weeks or months after your accident, do not wait to get help. The sooner you speak to an experienced Georgia car accident attorney, the better your chances of recovering the full compensation you need to pay for your care and secure your future.

At the Law Offices of Gary Martin Hays & Associates, we offer free consultations and only get paid if we recover compensation on your behalf. In other words, you don't pay a dime unless we win your case. Let us stand up to the insurance companies and make sure your voice is heard.

[Contact us today](#) to schedule your case review. Our team is here to listen to your story, answer your questions, and fight for the justice and compensation you deserve.