

Aortic Dissection Injuries From Car Accidents

Understanding Torn Aorta Injuries and Your Legal Options in Georgia

When a car crash happens at high speed or with extreme force, the body can sustain catastrophic internal injuries that aren't immediately visible. One of the most dangerous is an aortic dissection, which is a tear in the body's largest artery. This injury is often fatal, and for survivors, it requires immediate emergency surgery and a lifetime of follow-up care.

At the [Law Offices of Gary Martin Hays & Associates, P.C.](#), our attorneys know that these cases are medical emergencies and legal battles rolled into one. If someone else's negligence caused the crash, a [Georgia car accident lawyer](#) can help you pursue compensation for the steep medical bills, lost income, and life-altering effects that come with such a devastating injury.

What Is an Aortic Dissection?

The aorta is the main artery that carries oxygen-rich blood from the heart to the rest of the body. An aortic dissection happens when the inner layer of the aorta tears, allowing blood to flow between the layers of the artery wall. This creates a separation that can lead to a complete rupture, which is a medical crisis that's often fatal if not treated within hours.

There are two primary types of aortic dissection:

- **Type A:** Occurs in the ascending aorta (closest to the heart) and is the more life-threatening type.
- **Type B:** Occurs in the descending aorta, farther from the heart, but can still be fatal if not treated quickly.

Car accidents are among the leading traumatic causes of aortic dissections, especially in crashes involving high speeds, rollovers, or direct impacts to the chest.

How Car Accidents Cause Torn Aorta Injuries

An aortic dissection in a crash usually results from blunt force trauma to the chest or sudden deceleration that violently shifts the heart and blood vessels. These scenarios are common in:

- **High-Speed Collisions:** The sudden stop causes the heart and aorta to move inside the chest cavity, stretching and tearing the artery wall.
- **Head-On Crashes:** The driver's chest may hit the steering wheel, or the seatbelt can exert extreme pressure during the impact.
- **Rollover Accidents:** Multiple impacts and body position changes can increase stress on the aorta.
- **Pedestrian or Motorcycle Collisions:** Direct strikes to the torso can cause catastrophic vascular injuries.

Even if a victim appears stable after a collision, an undiagnosed aortic dissection can quickly worsen. This is why early recognition and medical imaging are critical.

Symptoms That May Indicate an Aortic Dissection

Because a torn aorta isn't visible, it's often overlooked in the chaos after a crash. However, survivors may experience:

- Sudden, severe chest or back pain (often described as ripping or tearing)
- Difficulty breathing
- Low blood pressure or rapid pulse
- Weakness or paralysis on one side of the body
- Loss of consciousness

Emergency responders and doctors must move fast to diagnose and treat this condition, usually with CT scans, MRIs, or echocardiograms.

The Medical Road Ahead for Survivors

Aortic dissection survivors face a long and difficult recovery. Treatment may include:

- **Emergency Surgery:** Often required to repair the tear, replace the damaged section of the aorta with a graft, or manage internal bleeding.
- **Blood Pressure Management:** Keeping blood pressure low is essential to prevent further damage.
- **Lifelong Monitoring:** Regular imaging and cardiology visits to track the aorta's condition.
- **Rehabilitation:** Physical therapy to regain strength after surgery and prolonged hospitalization.

Medical bills for this type of injury can quickly reach hundreds of thousands of dollars, and that's before factoring in lost wages or permanent disability.

Emotional and Psychological Impact

Aortic dissections aren't just physically life-threatening; they also take a mental toll. Survivors often face:

- **Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD):** From the crash itself or the near-death medical crisis.
- **Anxiety About Recurrence:** Worry over ongoing health risks can affect quality of life.
- **Changes in Lifestyle:** Limitations on physical activity, work duties, or hobbies.

These emotional effects can be as debilitating as the physical injury, and they should be included when calculating damages in a personal injury claim.

Why Insurance Companies Downplay Torn Aorta Claims

Insurance adjusters often focus on visible injuries — broken bones, lacerations, burns — while downplaying internal injuries like aortic dissections. Their tactics may include:

- **Questioning Causation:** Arguing the injury wasn't caused by the crash.
- **Delaying Payment:** Hoping financial pressure will force you to settle for less.
- **Minimizing Long-Term Costs:** Ignoring the need for ongoing monitoring, medications, and lifestyle changes.

Without a lawyer, it's difficult to counter these strategies, especially when dealing with complex medical evidence.

Proving Liability in Georgia Aortic Dissection Cases

Establishing fault is crucial in securing compensation for a torn aorta injury. In Georgia, you must prove that the at-fault driver's negligence caused the crash. This can involve:

- **Accident Reconstruction:** Using experts to determine how the crash occurred.
- **Medical Testimony:** Connecting the crash to the aortic injury.
- **Vehicle Data and Surveillance Footage:** Supporting the timeline and severity of the impact.

If multiple vehicles or commercial drivers are involved, liability can become even more complex, making experienced legal representation essential.

The Role of a Car Accident Lawyer in These Cases

When you hire Gary Martin Hays & Associates, we take immediate steps to protect your case:

- **Gathering medical records** to document the injury's severity.
- **Consulting medical experts** to explain the link between the crash and the torn aorta.
- **Handling all insurance communication** to prevent damaging statements.
- **Calculating full damages** including medical expenses, lost income, pain and suffering, and emotional trauma.
- **Taking the case to trial** if the insurance company refuses a fair settlement.

Why These Cases Demand Aggressive Representation

From a legal standpoint, aortic dissection injury cases highlight the critical intersection of medicine and law. The injury itself is often invisible until it's almost too late, which makes it easy for insurers to cast doubt on its cause or severity. This is unacceptable.

Every driver in Georgia has a responsibility to operate their vehicle safely and responsibly. When negligence strips someone of their health, mobility, and peace of mind, the legal system is one of the only tools available to restore some measure of justice.

We've seen that without strong advocacy, victims are left battling not only for their lives in a hospital room but also for their futures in the courtroom. That's why these cases can't be handled with a "wait and see" approach. They require immediate, thorough, and relentless legal action.

Get Legal Help for an Aortic Dissection Injury in Georgia

If you or a loved one suffered an aortic dissection in a car accident, the stakes couldn't be higher. You need an attorney who understands the medical urgency, the financial challenges, and the long-term consequences. At Gary Martin Hays & Associates, we fight to hold negligent drivers accountable and recover the maximum compensation you deserve. [Contact us today](#) to schedule a free consultation and learn how we can help.