

## What Are the Long-Term Effects of a Broken Clavicle After an Accident?

### A Broken Collarbone Can Disrupt Your Life for Months...Or Longer

When a [car accident](#) causes a broken clavicle (collarbone), most people expect pain and inconvenience—but not necessarily long-term complications. Unfortunately, the reality is often more severe. Many accident victims struggle with lingering pain, reduced mobility, and even permanent damage that alters their ability to work or enjoy life.

At the [Law Offices of Gary Martin Hays & Associates, P.C.](#), we've seen how devastating these injuries can be. If your broken clavicle was caused by someone else's negligence, our Georgia car accident lawyers can help you pursue the full compensation you need to recover.

### What Is the Clavicle and Why Is It Vulnerable in a Crash?

The clavicle is the long, slender bone that runs between your sternum and shoulder. It's one of the most commonly fractured bones in the human body—especially in car accidents, where [seatbelts](#), steering wheels, or direct impact can exert intense force on the shoulder area.

Clavicle fractures typically result from:

- [Head-on collisions](#) where seat belts press forcefully across the chest
- [Side-impact crashes](#) with direct trauma to the shoulder
- [Motorcycle](#) or [bicycle accidents](#) that involve falling onto the shoulder
- [Pedestrian accidents](#) where the body hits the ground or a vehicle at an angle

While the injury might seem straightforward, the aftermath can be anything but.

### How Long Does It Take for a Broken Clavicle to Heal?

The recovery time for a broken clavicle can vary depending on:

- The location and severity of the fracture
- Whether the bone is displaced (misaligned)
- The patient's age and general health
- Whether surgery is required

Most simple fractures take about 6–12 weeks to heal. However, that doesn't mean you'll feel "back to normal" in that time. Ongoing pain, weakness, or stiffness in the shoulder can persist long after the bone itself has healed.

If the fracture is severe or involves multiple fragments, surgery may be required. This typically involves the use of metal plates and screws to hold the bone in place. Post-operative recovery can take several months and may require physical therapy.

## What Are the Long-Term Effects of a Broken Clavicle?

Some victims of broken clavicle injuries experience complications that last for years—or never fully resolve. These long-term effects may include:

- **Chronic Shoulder Pain:** Even after healing, some individuals report ongoing discomfort during movement or at rest.
- **Reduced Range of Motion:** Stiffness or muscle weakness can make it difficult to lift or rotate the arm.
- **Nonunion or Malunion:** If the bone doesn't heal correctly, additional surgeries may be needed, and permanent impairment is possible.
- **Nerve Damage:** In some cases, the fracture or surgery can affect surrounding nerves, causing numbness, tingling, or weakness.
- **Post-Traumatic Arthritis:** Joint damage from the injury can increase the risk of developing arthritis in the shoulder later in life.
- **Cosmetic Deformity:** A visible bump or shortening of the shoulder may remain even after treatment.

These effects can significantly disrupt your quality of life, especially if your work requires physical activity, lifting, or overhead motion.

## What Does Treatment for a Broken Clavicle Typically Involve?

Treatment depends on the type of break. Common approaches include:

- **Non-Surgical Treatment:** For minor fractures, the arm is usually immobilized with a sling while the bone heals. Pain medication and physical therapy help manage symptoms and rebuild strength.
- **Surgical Treatment:** Displaced or complicated fractures may require open reduction and internal fixation (ORIF). Recovery includes post-operative care, limited activity, and physical rehab.

Follow-up care is essential to monitor healing and prevent long-term disability. Yet many accident victims are pressured to return to work or normal activities too soon, jeopardizing their recovery.

## Can I Receive Compensation for a Broken Clavicle After an Accident?

Yes. If your injury was caused by someone else's reckless or negligent behavior, you may be entitled to financial compensation. The value of a broken clavicle case can vary based on:

- **Severity of the Fracture:** More complex injuries requiring surgery and extended recovery tend to result in higher settlements.
- **Impact on Employment:** If you miss work or are unable to return to your previous job, you may be compensated for lost income and reduced earning capacity.

- **Pain and Suffering:** Physical discomfort, emotional distress, and lifestyle limitations are factored into your claim.
- **Medical Expenses:** From emergency room visits to physical therapy, all related medical costs can be recovered.
- **Permanent Impairment or Disability:** If the injury leads to long-term limitations or permanent loss of function, the value of your case increases significantly.

### **What Is the Average Settlement for a Broken Clavicle in a Car Accident?**

While each case is unique, settlements for broken clavicle injuries often fall within the range of \$25,000 to \$150,000 or more, depending on the factors listed above.

For example:

- A minor fracture with no complications and full recovery may settle on the lower end.
- A displaced fracture requiring surgery, time off work, and ongoing physical therapy could result in a mid-range to high settlement.
- Cases involving permanent disability, chronic pain, or reduced earning potential may exceed \$150,000, especially if punitive damages are involved.

It's important to note that insurance companies often try to undervalue broken bone claims, especially when the injury isn't visible after initial healing. Having an attorney can make a major difference in recovering the full amount you're entitled to.

### **Why Should You Contact a Personal Injury Lawyer After a Broken Clavicle Injury?**

Dealing with insurance companies on your own after a car accident can be overwhelming, especially if you're trying to focus on healing. An experienced personal injury lawyer can help you:

- Gather medical records and expert testimony
- Calculate the true value of your injury (including future costs)
- Push back against lowball offers from insurance adjusters
- File a personal injury lawsuit if negotiations stall
- Represent your interests every step of the way

At Gary Martin Hays & Associates, we know how to build strong cases that reflect the full scope of our clients' injuries. We fight for every dollar you deserve, and [we don't get paid unless you win](#).

### **How Do I Know If I Have a Valid Injury Claim?**

If you suffered a broken clavicle in a crash that wasn't your fault, you likely have grounds for a claim. To strengthen your case, be sure to:

1. **Seek Immediate Medical Attention:** This creates documentation of your injury.

2. **Follow All Medical Advice:** Delays or gaps in treatment can be used against you.
3. **Document Everything:** Keep records of time missed from work, out-of-pocket costs, and pain symptoms.
4. **Don't Speak to the Insurance Company Alone:** They are trained to minimize payouts—talk to a lawyer first.

### **What's the Deadline to File a Personal Injury Lawsuit in Georgia?**

In Georgia, the statute of limitations for filing a personal injury lawsuit is two years from the date of the accident. If you miss this deadline, you could lose your right to compensation.

However, certain situations, such as a claim involving a government entity, may involve shorter notice requirements. The sooner you speak with an attorney, the better.

### **Contact Our Georgia Personal Injury Lawyers Today**

A broken clavicle may seem like a “minor” injury, but it can have major consequences. If you've been hurt in a car crash, motorcycle accident, truck wreck, or pedestrian/bicycle collision, don't let the insurance company tell you what your case is worth. Let our team at Gary Martin Hays & Associates fight for the maximum compensation you deserve under Georgia law.

We'll review your case for free and help you understand your legal options—no pressure, no obligation. Call today or [contact us online](#) to get started. We would be honored to speak to you about your potential legal case.