

Internal Injuries After a Truck Accident Can Be Life-Threatening

How Internal Trauma Impacts Victims of Truck Crashes

When someone survives a crash with a semi-truck or 18-wheeler, the visible injuries—cuts, bruises, or broken bones—often get the most attention. But some of the most dangerous damage happens inside the body, where it's harder to detect and sometimes overlooked. Internal injuries suffered in [truck accidents](#) can lead to severe complications, long-term health issues, and in some cases, death—especially when they aren't identified right away.

At the [Law Offices of Gary Martin Hays & Associates, P.C.](#), our team helps clients get the medical care and financial compensation they need after being seriously injured in a truck accident. If you're suffering from internal injuries or complications after a collision with a commercial vehicle, we can help you fight back.

What Are Internal Injuries?

Internal injuries involve trauma to organs, blood vessels, and other structures inside the body. These injuries may not be visible from the outside, which makes them especially dangerous in the aftermath of a truck crash. In high-impact collisions, the force exerted on the body can cause internal bleeding, organ rupture, or damage to blood vessels, even without breaking the skin.

Examples of internal injuries include:

- **Organ Damage:** The liver, spleen, kidneys, and lungs are especially vulnerable during side-impact or rollover crashes.
- **Internal Bleeding:** Blood vessels can tear due to blunt trauma, leading to slow or rapid blood loss inside the body.
- **Collapsed Lung (Pneumothorax):** When a rib fractures and punctures the lung, it can lead to difficulty breathing and potentially life-threatening complications.
- **Abdominal Trauma:** The stomach and intestines can be crushed or perforated, which may not be obvious until symptoms worsen.
- **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI):** Some [TBIs](#) are internal, involving bleeding in or around the brain (e.g., subdural hematoma or intracranial hemorrhage), and may not show symptoms immediately.

These types of injuries are frequently missed in the first few hours after a crash, especially if the victim is focused on more visible wounds or is not transported to the hospital for imaging.

Why Are Internal Injuries Common in Truck Accidents?

Truck accidents often involve forces that go far beyond the typical passenger vehicle crash. A fully loaded tractor-trailer can weigh up to 80,000 pounds. When it collides with a car or SUV,

the smaller vehicle usually absorbs the brunt of the impact. Even at low speeds, the momentum of a semi-truck can crush a vehicle's structure and violently jolt the human body inside.

Some common types of truck crashes that lead to internal injuries include:

- **Underride Accidents:** When a car slides underneath the trailer, the roof can be crushed, causing internal head or chest trauma.
- **Rear-End Collisions:** A truck slamming into the back of a stopped vehicle can cause whiplash, chest injuries, or abdominal trauma from seatbelts.
- **T-Bone Crashes:** When a truck broadsides a vehicle, there's minimal protection for the driver or passenger on the impact side.
- **Rollovers and Jackknifes:** Occupants can be violently thrown around the vehicle or crushed by shifting debris.

The nature of these accidents means internal trauma is not just likely, it's expected.

Symptoms of Internal Injuries After a Truck Crash

Internal injuries don't always present immediately. In some cases, crash victims feel "okay" after the collision and go home only to collapse later from internal bleeding or organ failure. That's why seeking immediate medical attention is critical, even if you feel fine.

Warning signs of internal injuries include:

- Abdominal pain or swelling
- Dizziness or fainting
- Shortness of breath
- Chest pain
- Nausea or vomiting (especially with blood)
- Weakness on one side of the body
- Deep bruising (especially in the torso)
- Blood in urine or stool
- Persistent headaches or confusion

If you notice any of these symptoms after a truck accident—even hours or days later—you should seek immediate emergency medical care.

How Internal Injuries Impact Your Recovery

Internal injuries can result in prolonged hospital stays, multiple surgeries, and long-term health complications. Even with quick treatment, some patients never fully recover. Others may require months of rehabilitation, physical therapy, or lifelong medication.

Complications include:

- **Organ Loss:** If an organ is ruptured, it may need to be removed, permanently altering the patient's lifestyle.
- **Chronic Pain:** Damage to nerves or internal structures can lead to lasting pain.
- **Disfigurement or Disability:** Some injuries cause significant internal scarring or dysfunction, reducing quality of life.
- **Infection or Sepsis:** Punctured organs or internal bleeding can lead to dangerous infections if not treated promptly.
- **Mental Health Struggles:** The trauma of a truck crash combined with a long recovery can trigger anxiety, depression, or PTSD.

These outcomes affect not just your health, but your ability to work, support your family, and return to daily life. That's why it's so important to pursue a full financial recovery, not just for the current bills, but for everything the crash has cost you.

Getting Compensation for Internal Injuries in Georgia

If a negligent truck driver or trucking company caused your injuries, you have the right to seek compensation under Georgia law. But internal injury cases are complex. You'll need strong evidence, detailed medical records, and a legal team that knows how to take on powerful insurance carriers and trucking defense firms.

You may be entitled to compensation for:

- **Medical Expenses:** Emergency care, imaging, surgery, rehab, medication
- **Lost Wages:** Income lost during recovery or due to disability
- **Future Medical Needs:** Ongoing treatment, therapy, or medication
- **Pain and Suffering:** Physical and emotional distress
- **Loss of Earning Capacity:** If your injuries limit your ability to work in the future
- **Punitive Damages:** In cases of gross negligence, such as violations of federal trucking regulations

Trucking companies often have millions in insurance coverage, but they also have teams of adjusters and lawyers working to protect their bottom line. That's why you need a truck accident lawyer who's ready to build a strong case, negotiate aggressively, and go to trial if necessary.

The Importance of Acting Quickly After a Truck Crash

Internal injuries require urgent medical care, and your legal case does too. Over time, evidence disappears. Trucking companies may "lose" [black box data](#) or [overwrite it](#). Witness memories fade. Damaged vehicles get repaired or scrapped.

Gary Martin Hays & Associates can launch an immediate investigation to preserve critical evidence, consult with medical and accident reconstruction experts, and make sure your rights

are protected from the start. We don't wait for the insurance company to do the right thing—we make them.

Why You Need a Lawyer Who Handles Serious Injury Truck Cases

Not every law firm is equipped to handle complex truck accident claims involving internal injuries. These cases require:

- A deep understanding of FMCSA regulations and trucking industry practices
- Access to medical experts who can explain the severity of your injuries
- Experience dealing with trucking company insurers and defense attorneys
- A trial-ready mindset and proven results in serious injury litigation

At Gary Martin Hays & Associates, we focus on serious injury cases. We understand the toll internal injuries can take, and we fight hard to make sure clients aren't left with bills they shouldn't have to pay.

If You Suffered Internal Injuries in a Georgia Truck Crash, We're Ready to Help

Your injuries are serious. Your case should be, too. If you or a loved one suffered internal injuries in a collision with a commercial truck, don't face the [insurance company](#) alone. We're here to help you pursue justice and full compensation for everything you've lost.

[Contact us today](#) for a free consultation with an experienced truck accident attorney. There's no cost to speak with us and no fee unless we win your case.