

IF YOU OR A LOVED ONE HAVE BEEN INJURED IN A CAR ACCIDENT

YOU MUST READ THIS:

Motor Vehicle Accidents (MVA) cause much more than just a sore neck and headaches. Research has shown that even a low speed collision of 6.8 miles per hour (MPH) can cause serious damage to your cervical spine. Damage that may not be immediately apparent and difficult to diagnose. Because some of the injuries may not show up for days, weeks, or even years after the accident it is extremely important that you are seen by a provider that is able to diagnose and treat these injuries effectively. These injuries can even occur when there is very little damage to your vehicle.

Treating patients involved in motor vehicle accidents is completely different than typical aches and pains.

The physical forces applied to the spine during a motor vehicle accident can cause unseen and very difficult to diagnose injuries. These injuries include:

- Damage to the Posterior Longitudinal Ligament (PLL)
- Damage to the Supraspinous Ligament (SSL)
- Damage to the Anterior Longitudinal Ligament (ALL)
- Damage to Cervical Facet Joints
- Damage to the Cervical Disc
- Damage to the Dorsal Nerve Rami

These injuries can not be diagnosed by a CT Scan or MRI immediately after the accident. So even if you were taken to the ER immediately after your accident and cleared to return home, these injuries can still be hiding. Often these injuries aren't evident for days or weeks after your accident and can very easily be missed by other providers.

Rear End Collisions cause what is termed Cervical Acceleration/Deceleration (CAD) Injuries, commonly known as Whiplash. However, this is only the beginning of the injury. Recently researchers have classified what is now called Whiplash Associated Disorders (WAD) which involves all of the secondary symptoms associated with Whiplash. These symptoms include:

- Muscle Strains
- Nerve Damage
- Sprains & Tears to Ligaments and Tendons
- Joint Injuries
- Disc Injuries
- Low Grade Concussions that are easily missed by EMS and the ER

These and other injuries can only be diagnosed by special imaging techniques and specially trained medical providers.

Other injuries & complications that are commonly missed include:

- Injuries to wrist, hand, elbow and shoulder from holding on to your steering wheel
- Injuries to the foot, ankle, knee and hip from depressing the brake during the collision
- Minor concussions associated with Whiplash Associated Disorders which researchers are finding is more and more common with MVA's.
- Other cognitive issues associated with WAD's can include CSF and vertebral artery insufficiency which can lead to "fog" brain, memory issues, and other cognitive symptoms that may linger for weeks or months post accident.
- Damage to the occipital nerves causing Cervicogenic Headaches which are frequently misdiagnosed as migraines, and if left untreated can lead to chronic headaches and permanent nerve damage requiring surgical intervention.

Your insurance company is not on your side. Did you know that insurance companies hire Doctors to review your case and intentionally devalue your injuries and attack your case so they can claim your injuries are not as severe as they actually are? If you have seen a provider that isn't specialized in diagnosing and documenting your injuries correctly, then these Insurance Doctors will use that against you. This will result in you not getting the care you need and possibly accepting a settlement that is significantly less than what you and your injuries will need. Some of these injuries may also require future treatments and medical interventions that if not properly documented will not be included in your settlement, meaning you will have to pay out of pocket for future medical expenses. These are aspects of your case and your injuries that insurance companies don't want you to know about. Which is why you need a qualified medical provider to examine your injuries.

All of these issues are easily addressed if your provider has the proper training and properly equipped facility. So please, if you have been injured in an accident seek expert advice and care for your injuries.

Did you know that ALL Colorado residents have access to Mandated Medical Payments Coverage through your auto insurance? This is different from your health insurance and you have access to this coverage by Colorado State Law to pay for medical expenses related to any car accident, even if you're not the driver! This coverage is available to anyone in the car during an accident. Most auto insurance carriers don't tell you that even your passengers have access to this special state mandated insurance coverage. Even if you are the at-fault driver you have access to this coverage. Medical Payments Coverage is mandated by the State of Colorado unless otherwise waived by the insured.

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