

HADES CLAIMS

The Complete Claims Solution

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FACTS ABOUT WHIPLASH

Whiplash is caused by a sudden, moderate to severe strain which affects the bones, discs, muscles, nerves, or tendons of the neck. There are estimated to be over 100,000 such injuries in the UK every year and most occur as a result of a motor accident, an accident at work or impact involving contact sports. The injury results when unexpected force suddenly jerks the head backwards and then forwards whereupon the bones of the neck move slightly out of position, the muscles and tendons may become torn or stretched causing irritated nerves.

DIAGNOSIS OF WHIPLASH

This is based on observation of the patient's symptoms, consideration of the medical history, physical examination to determine whether the neck and spine has been injured. The symptoms of whiplash may appear immediately following the accident or they may not develop until hours, days, or weeks after the injury occurs and may commonly include some or all of the following;

Headaches, Pain or stiffness in the neck, jaw, shoulders, or arm, Dizziness, Blurred vision, Pain, pins and needles, numbness or muscle spasm in the shoulder, hands or arm, Reduced ability to turn and bend, Nausea and vomiting, Low back problems

WHIPLASH INJURY RISK FACTORS

Occupants who are aware of an impending rear end crash generally have less severe injuries.

There is usually a direct relationship between the extent of the damage to the vehicle and the risk of injury but this is far from an exact science.

Looking towards the side or down at the time of the impact may increase the risk of facet joint injury

The incidence of serious head injury is significantly reduced if a seatbelt is worn although studies although studies have found that they increase the risk of minor and moderate neck injuries

In the proper position headrests will reduce injury

Collisions to the side of the vehicle produce more severe injuries than rear end shunts.

Immediate severe symptoms are likely to indicate a bone or joint injury.

THE FACTS

A Whiplash injury is usually not serious and permanent damage is rare. Only a small percentage of people will suffer long term residual symptoms. Any serious injury is normally noticed at the time of, or immediately after the accident.

Pain which develops hours or days after the accident usually indicates that the neck is not seriously injured.

Lower back injury is rarely serious. Serious pain usually improves within a few days but general aches and pains can last up to 18 months or more.

For more information, you can purchase a book entitled, "The WHIPLASH Book" which is based on current research on how to deal with the injury. Contact : book.orders@tso.co.uk as well as other leading book stores.