

A headache after a car accident can have several possible causes. Some headaches occur alongside neck stiffness or muscle tension, while others may be associated with concussion or another condition that requires medical evaluation.

For drivers in [Chiropractor Mill Creek](#), recognizing the difference between a routine musculoskeletal complaint and a potentially serious warning sign is an important part of post-accident care.

At [Mill Creek Chiropractic Clinic](#), patients who experience headaches along with neck pain, restricted movement, or other musculoskeletal symptoms can be evaluated to determine whether chiropractic care may be appropriate.

Is It Normal to Have a Headache After a Car Accident?

Headaches can occur after motor vehicle collisions, particularly when the head, neck, or upper body experiences sudden movement.

Possible contributors may include neck strain, muscle tension, changes in cervical movement, or other musculoskeletal factors. However, a headache following an accident should not automatically be assumed to originate from the neck.

Head trauma and concussion can also cause headaches, which is why the patient's other symptoms and the circumstances of the collision matter.

How Neck Injuries Can Be Associated With Headaches

The neck contains joints, muscles, ligaments, and other structures that can become irritated following sudden movement or injury.

Some people who develop headaches after an accident also notice:

Mill Creek Chiropractic Clinic offers personalized chiropractic care for back pain, neck pain, headaches, auto injuries, sciatica, shoulder pain, and other musculoskeletal concerns. Find us at 16212 Bothell Everett Hwy, Suite E, Mill Creek, WA 98012, or call (425) 745-4430. Contact Mill Creek Chiropractic Clinic today to schedule an appointment and take the next step toward more comfortable movement.



- Neck stiffness
- Pain near the base of the skull
- Reduced ability to turn the head
- Upper-back or shoulder tension
- Pain influenced by neck position or movement

These findings can suggest that musculoskeletal factors in the neck should be considered as part of the evaluation.

Whiplash and Post-Accident Headaches

Whiplash commonly involves sudden movement of the neck during an automobile collision. Headaches can occur along with other whiplash-related complaints such as stiffness, neck discomfort, and reduced range of motion.

Not every post-accident headache is caused by whiplash, however. An appropriate examination is important before determining the likely source of symptoms.

Learn more about [whiplash treatment and symptoms](#).

Headache or Concussion? Why the Difference Matters

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury and requires appropriate medical assessment. Chiropractic care should not be used as a substitute for evaluation of a suspected brain injury.

Following a crash, seek prompt medical attention when a headache is accompanied by symptoms such as:

- Loss of consciousness
- Repeated vomiting
- Increasing confusion
- Unusual drowsiness
- Difficulty speaking
- Problems with balance or walking
- New weakness or numbness
- Seizure
- A severe or rapidly worsening headache

Anyone concerned about a possible concussion should seek appropriate medical care.

Why Headaches May Develop Later

Some people do not recognize neck stiffness or headache symptoms immediately after a collision. Once the initial stress of the event passes and normal activities resume, symptoms may become more noticeable.

This is one reason it can be useful to pay attention to changes in comfort and mobility during the days following an accident rather than relying exclusively on how you felt at the scene.

What a Chiropractor Checks When Headaches Follow an Accident

If serious head injury has been ruled out and musculoskeletal symptoms remain, a chiropractic examination may evaluate:

- Neck range of motion
- Joint movement
- Muscle tension and tenderness
- Upper-back and shoulder mobility
- Posture and movement patterns
- Movements or positions that reproduce symptoms
- Previous headache or neck-pain history

This information can help determine whether the patient's neck or surrounding musculoskeletal structures may be contributing to their symptoms.

Can Chiropractic Care Help With Headaches After a Collision?

Chiropractic care may be appropriate for certain patients whose headaches occur alongside musculoskeletal neck [Mill Creek Chiropractor](#) pain, restricted movement, or stiffness.

Treatment recommendations depend on the examination findings and may include joint mobilization or chiropractic adjustments, mobility exercises, and other conservative care.

Chiropractic care is not a treatment for every type of headache, and patients may need referral to a physician, neurologist, or another healthcare professional depending on their symptoms.

Mill Creek
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Learn more about [chiropractic care for headaches in Mill Creek](#).

Neck Pain After a Car Accident

When headache symptoms occur together with neck stiffness or discomfort, evaluating cervical movement can be particularly important.

The examination may consider whether the neck has lost normal range of motion, whether certain areas are tender, and whether particular movements reproduce symptoms.



Patients can learn more about [neck pain chiropractic care in Mill Creek](#).

What Should You Track After the Accident?

Keeping simple notes about symptoms can make it easier to explain what has changed since the collision.

Helpful information may include:

- When the headache began
- Where the pain is located
- How long it lasts

- Whether neck movement changes the headache
- Whether dizziness, nausea, or vision changes occur
- Whether symptoms are improving, stable, or worsening

This information does not replace an examination, but it can help healthcare providers understand the pattern of symptoms.

Car Accident Headache Care in Mill Creek, WA

Mill Creek Chiropractic Clinic provides chiropractic care for patients experiencing musculoskeletal symptoms after motor vehicle accidents, including neck pain, stiffness, and certain headache complaints associated with the neck.

The clinic is located at 16212 Bothell Everett [Car accident chiropractor](#) Highway, Suite E, Mill Creek, WA 98012.

Learn more about [auto injury chiropractic care in Mill Creek](#) or view directions and reviews at [Mill Creek Chiropractic Clinic on Google Maps](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

Should I be concerned about a headache after a car accident?

A post-accident headache deserves attention, particularly if it is severe, worsening, unusual for you, or accompanied by neurological symptoms. Seek prompt medical evaluation when concussion or another serious injury may be possible.

Can whiplash cause headaches?

Headaches can occur along with whiplash-related neck pain and stiffness, but not every headache after a collision is caused by whiplash.

Mill Creek Chiropractic Clinic provides chiropractic care for patients dealing with neck pain, back pain, whiplash symptoms, and other musculoskeletal concerns after a car accident. Visit us at 16212 Bothell Everett Hwy, Suite E, Mill Creek, WA 98012, or call (425) 745-4430. Schedule an evaluation today and find out whether chiropractic care is appropriate for your recovery.

Can a chiropractor evaluate headaches after a crash?

A chiropractor can evaluate musculoskeletal factors involving the neck and surrounding structures. Suspected concussion, neurological symptoms, or other concerning findings require appropriate medical evaluation.

Where can I find a chiropractor for car accident neck pain in Mill Creek?

Mill Creek Chiropractic Clinic provides chiropractic care for auto-injury patients at its office on Bothell-Everett Highway in Mill Creek, Washington.

Important Note

This article is provided for general educational purposes and is not intended to diagnose the cause of a headache. Headaches following trauma may require medical evaluation, particularly when symptoms are severe, worsening, or accompanied by neurological changes.