

# Neck Pain (Grades I and II)\*

*The following information is for adults experiencing neck pain for 6 months or less*



## Why do I get neck pain?

Many things can contribute to feeling pain, such as:

- Strained neck muscles
- Injuries (e.g. whiplash)
- Stress and anxiety
- Poor sleep

## Will my pain go away?

- Neck pain often resolves within a few weeks or months
- Treatment can speed up recovery while reducing pain and improving function

## What can I do?

To help speed up your recovery:

- Participate in your care with your healthcare provider
- Continue day-to-day activities even if you experience some pain (within reason)

## Potential treatment options to discuss with your healthcare provider

- Range of motion and strengthening exercises<sup>a,b</sup> ([click here for examples](#))
- Manipulation or mobilization<sup>a,b</sup>
- Qigong exercises<sup>b</sup>
- Iyengar yoga<sup>b</sup>
- Clinical massage<sup>b</sup>
- Low-level laser therapy<sup>b</sup>
- Muscle relaxants<sup>a</sup>
- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs<sup>b</sup>

## Contact your healthcare provider if you experience any of the following

- Recent head injury
- Sudden and intense headache or neck pain
- Inability to perform movements
- Sudden weight loss or loss of appetite
- Pain at rest
- Fever/ chills/ feeling ill
- Loss of feeling in the shoulders, arms, or hands

\*The most common types of neck pain are Grade I (no signs or symptoms suggestive of major structural pathology and no or minor interference with activities of daily living) and grade II (no signs or symptoms of major structural pathology, but major interference with activities of daily living).

<sup>a</sup>Neck pain ≤ 3 months duration | <sup>b</sup>Neck pain > 3 months duration

Information based on: Côté P, Wong JJ, Sutton D., et al. Management of neck pain and associated disorders: A clinical practice guideline from the Ontario Protocol for Traffic Injury Management (OPTIMA) Collaboration. Eur Spine J. 2016; 25:2000-2022 and Bussi eres AE, Stewart G, Al-Zoubi F., et al. The treatment of neck pain-associated disorders and whiplash-associated disorders: a clinical practice guideline. J Man Physiol Ther. 2016; 39(8): 523-564.