

Spinal Cord Injury Symptoms and Effects

What Causes Spinal Cord Injury?

The most common causes of spinal injuries include:

- Motor vehicle accidents.
- Traumatic injuries.
- Falls.
- Sports and recreation accidents.
- Diseases, such as tumors, infections and inflammation of the spinal cord.
- Vascular syndromes.

Spinal Cord Injury Symptoms and Effects

Spinal cord injuries can lead to a number of complications and effects. Some of the most common symptoms include:

- Loss of movement (paralysis) below the injury
- Loss of sensation—including the ability to feel heat, cold and touch—below the injury
- Exaggerated reflexes or muscle spasms below the injury
- **Spasticity**
- Loss of bowel and bladder control
- Potentially life-threatening over-activity of the autonomic nervous system (autonomic dysreflexia). **Autonomic dysreflexia** affects body functions such as heart rate, blood pressure and breathing.
- Trouble breathing, coughing or clearing mucus from the lungs
- Trouble swallowing
- Changes in sexual function and fertility

Make An Appointment

651-290-8707

Refer a Patient

651-325-2200

This information is for educational purposes only. It is not intended to replace the advice of your health care providers. If you have any questions, talk with your doctor or others on your health care team.

If you are a Gillette patient with urgent questions or concerns, please contact Telehealth Nursing at **651-229-3890**.