

Summary of Pain Types

Pain Type	Duration	Future	Pathology	Associated Problems
Acute	Short (days)	Short duration Symptomatic treatment effective	Usually obvious Accounts for complaints	Usually none
Cancer	Days to years	May be active-responsive, i.e., radiation, or may be chronic and progressive	Consistent with pathology	Variable May be same as chronic non-cancer pain
Non-cancer Chronic Pain	>6 months inappropriate (often years)	Persistent Managed with multidiscipline approach	Usually present Pain may be dissociated from pathology	Frequent medication problems, depression, anxiety, behavioral changes, physical deconditioning