
Information from your Patient Aligned Care Team

Differences between Acute and Chronic Pain

Acute Pain

- Serves a useful warning function: It is a symptom of underlying disease or injury.
- Acute pain stops after the injury heals or the disease runs its course.

Chronic Pain

- Pain that persists longer than 6 months (sometimes longer than 3 months).
- May be symptomatic of an underlying chronic disease or may exist in the absence of underlying disease.
- Continues long after the initial injury has healed or the disease is over.
- No longer serves as a useful warning function.

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