

Understanding The Levels of Spinal Cord Injuries

by [John Demas](#) on 05/18/10

The spinal cord is a very complex part of our body. You find it inside the spine which is our backbone. There are different segments in the spinal cord like the vertebral segments and the neurological segments.

There are 33 vertebral segments in your spine. This is what helps you bend over, twist and turn, because the bones are segmented. It is possible for one segment to be affected in a fall, or more than one. For instance, a person could suffer from dislocation of vertebrae because of torn ligaments. A worse scenario would be a fracture where the bones are forced either forward or downward.

With neurological spinal injury, the damage is to a nerve. Since the spinal cord starts from the brain and travels down the length of the spine, there are nerves all along the way. Injuries related to the nervous system could affect a person's mobility and sensory functions like seeing, smelling, hearing, touching, and tasting.

Minor neurological spinal cord injuries can be a result of jarring or sudden movements. You could have a concussion which could cause numbness and will only last a few hours. A contusion is a bruise which causes bleeding and the fluid could permanently damage some neurons. Accidents or gun shot wounds could cause lacerations, and this will directly affect the nerve cells.

Unfortunately, at any point where there is pressure or damage to the spinal cord, there is the risk of loss of sensation or paralysis. The extent and area affected will depend on which part of the spinal cord was damaged. The upper areas would affect the diaphragm up to the head, and even cause difficulty of breathing. Injuries to the middle section of the spinal cord would

include your abdomen, lower chest and genitals, while injuries to the end points of your spinal cord will affect legs, genitals, and your perineum muscles.

Injuries to the spinal cord knows no limitations in terms of gender, age, or race. Depending on the age, the injury could be more severe. For example, an elderly man who slips and falls, damaging his spinal cord will have a more difficult and prolonged treatment period than a young teenager. This is because the supporting bones which is the spine, is not as strong as it used to be. Recovery will be slower, and there is the additional risk of not being able to fully recover.

Any time you fall or get hit hard, and there is pain, it is best to have it checked as soon as possible. Early detection could help especially in cases of bleeding, fluid leaks, or bone fragments, or a dislocation.

*Demas & Rosenthal has been representing injury victims for nearly twenty years. We are committed to offering the highest quality representation and level of service. We have extensive experience handling a variety of spinal cord injuries and have the resources to take on major corporations and insurance companies. Please do not rely or act solely upon the information provided in this article. Please consider getting a consultation immediately. The best personal injury law firms best personal injury law firms will provide a free consultation. **Demas & Rosenthal** will provide a free, confidential consultation if you were injured. The free consultation offer extends to family members as well.*