

# Acute Pain

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## 1 Definition

### 1.1 Problems with traditional acute/chronic classification

Traditionally, Acute vs chronic pain has been defined based on an arbitrary time frame (3mo or 6mo)<sup>1</sup>. These criteria do not take into consideration

- Intensity of pain<sup>1</sup>
- Severity<sup>1</sup>
- Nature of its impact on functioning or treatment-seeking behaviors<sup>1</sup>
- Whether pain must be present every day<sup>1</sup>
- How frequent it occurs in this interval<sup>1</sup>

### 1.2 New Classification

A new classification was proposed conceptualizing acute and chronic pain on two dimensions: time and physical pathology<sup>1</sup>

1. Ballantyne J, Fishman S, Rathmell JP, eds. *Bonica's Management of Pain*. 5th ed. Wolters Kluwer; 2019.

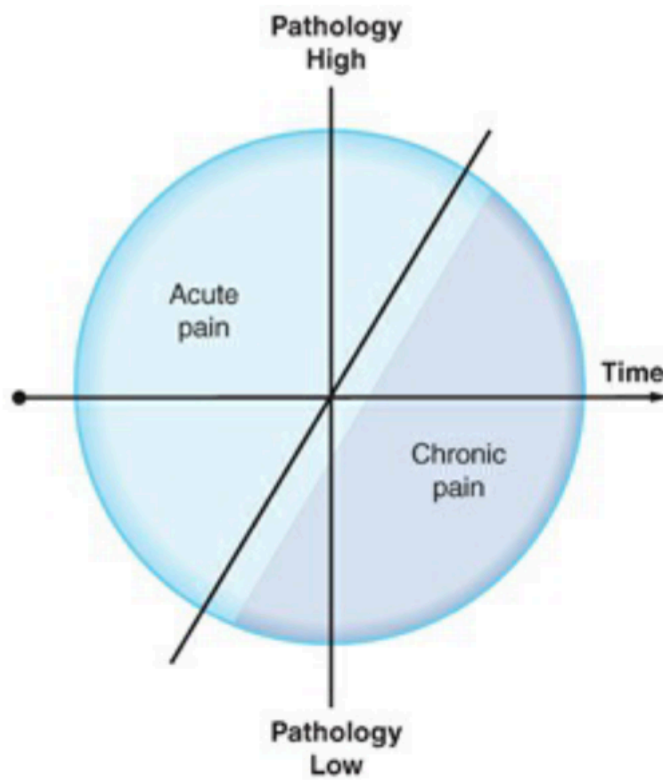


Figure 1: Pictorial representation of acute and chronic pain<sup>1</sup>