

## Differences between Acute and Chronic Pain

### Acute Pain

- Serves a useful warning function: symptom of underlying disease or injury
- Ends 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
- Persists long after the initial injury has healed
- No longer serves as a useful warning function