



Golfer's Elbow Affects More Than Just Golfers

This is a common patient story – a 46 year-old female with complaints of inside-right elbow pain. Her pain developed over a period of about 6 weeks because her big Labrador retriever was pulling on the dog leash while they were walking. She went to the doctor and was diagnosed with “golfer’s elbow.”

Not just a Golfer's Problem

Golfer's elbow is a problem with the tendons that arise from a bone on the inside aspect of the elbow called the medial epicondyle. People that suffer from golfer's elbow are often involved in racquet sports, golf, or in this case holding onto a dog leash. Typically, someone who experiences golfer's elbow overuses the forearm, traumatizing the tendons.

More Than Inflammation

When you injure yourself, the healing process starts with inflammation. The blood vessels open up around the injury to allow the appropriate repairing cells (white blood cells and fibroblasts) to do their job. Typically, inflammation is over in about one week. Golfer's elbow can be painful for months. Why? Recent research seems to indicate that tendon injuries are more than inflammation. When researchers examine these damaged tendons, they appear to have lost some of their normal strength and density - a condition called tendinosis. Repair of these problems is often slow and incomplete. The normal tendon tissue is replaced by weak dysfunctional tissue.



Treatment Techniques

Usually, activity modification, anti-inflammatory medications, ice, and progressive stretching and strengthening will relieve most cases. Over the last 5 years, clinical researchers have concluded that is often necessary to break down that weak tissue to stimulate regeneration of healthy tendon tissue. Techniques like eccentric tendon loading, cross friction massage (sometimes with specific treatment instruments), even shockwave therapy are often helpful.

The Bottom Line

If you experience golfer's elbow, like the case described above, it might not be just an inflammatory problem. It isn't unheard of for recovery to take 6-9 months. If you have tendon problems, make sure you take care of it. Proper treatment just might speed up your recovery.

Come to Pacific Care Center for short-term rehabilitation needs.

- Improve daily living
- Total knee replacement
- Total hip replacement
- Fractures
- Stroke
- Balance and falls
- General weakness after hospital stay

We'll get you home quickly.

Pacific Care Center

105 South Sixth Street
Pacific Mo 63069
636-271-4222 Phone
636-257-8002 Fax

[Call for an Appointment](#)

“Golfer's elbow can be painful for months.”