CAA auto expert Ryan Peterson answers your questions

My 2015 Hyundai Genesis has an eight-speed automatic transmission. For the first 2,000 kilometres, I used the paddle shifters to vary the RPMs. Twice after that, I noticed loud bangs and thumps when accelerating in Auto mode. It stopped after the dealer reset the transmission software to the factory settings, but could the transmission have been damaged?

Norm Calder

A: It's very unlikely. Many modern vehicles will learn your driving style and adjust shift patterns to match. It sounds like your transmission increased its line pressures for quick, firm engagement. When the dealer reset the software, they replaced any learned behaviours with the softer factory settings.

SEND YOUR CAR QUESTIONS TO caamagazine@contentlabs.ca



TRAVEL TIPS

stop bellyaching

Parasites are the last souvenir you want to bring home from a warm-weather vacation this winter. Here's how to avoid them. -Melody Wren

Twenty-nine per cent of Canadian travellers return home with a parasite, according to estimates by Dr. Andrea Boggild, medical director of the Tropical Disease Unit at Toronto General Hospital. Symptoms often resemble stomach issues at first, but can lead to long-term complications without treatment. If you're travelling to a high-risk destination—which includes several Caribbean islands, East and West Africa, Peru and Southeast Asia—follow these tips to leave parasites behind.

THE DOS AND DON'TS OF AVOIDING PARASITES

Talk to a travel doctor before you go; they can advise you on specific parasites to watch out for in your destination.

Clean all fruits and vegetables thoroughly with a brush, including those with peels. You can get a variety of common parasites by ingesting contaminated food or water.

Wear insect repellent. Insect bites are a common cause of parasitic infections, since flies and mosquitoes can actually inject parasites into the skin as they bite.

Swim or wade in freshwater streams, rivers and lakes. Doing so can expose you to schistosomiasis, second in seriousness only to malaria.

DON'T

Drink unfiltered water or unreliable tap water. The most common parasite among travellers is giardia, which is frequently acquired by swallowing contaminated water.

DON'T

Walk barefoot on sand or soil. Strongyloides stercoralis and other parasites can penetrate the skin if you go without footwear on contaminated ground.

If you do get sick or injured on vacation, emergency medical coverage from CAA Travel Insurance can help cover your costs. Learn more and get a quote at caasco.com/travelsafe.*