

Wheels: Gary writes, “I don’t know if you can shed any light on my car problem but here goes. I own a 2005 Chevy Cavalier with 40,000 miles. Recently, the ABS dash light would come on randomly as I was driving. Once the light comes on, it will stay on until the car is restarted. I can drive at times up to 30 miles before the dash light will come on. Other times it will come on within the first few miles. I am not using the brakes at the time the light comes on and the car drives and brakes fine; it feels like new. I do not want an unnecessary expensive repair bill just to make a dash light go out. Any thoughts or helpful advice would be appreciated?”

Halderman: If the ABS warning light has been on, then the computer has set a diagnostic trouble code. I suggest that you see a dealer or shop and have the code retrieved. The code will help pinpoint where and what circuit is at fault. The most likely cause is a defective wheel speed sensor or wiring to the sensor. Because these sensors are usually part of the wheel bearing assembly, it is wise to have the system properly diagnosed rather than start to replace parts.

