



WHAT IS TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY?

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) occurs when a sudden trauma, such as a bump, blow or jolt to the head, causes damage to the brain. **TBI IS A MEDICAL EMERGENCY.** Immediate assessment of the severity of the injury is needed.

WHAT IS THE BURDEN OF TBI?

A leading cause of **DEATH AND DISABILITY**

69 million cases/year worldwide

5 million deaths/year worldwide

WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON CAUSES OF TBI?



FALL



CAR CRASH



ASSAULT



SPORT

WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF TBI?



LOSS OF CONSCIOUSNESS



HEADACHE



VOMITING OR NAUSEA



CONFUSION OR DISORIENTATION



CONVULSIONS OR SEIZURES



TBI may have complications and be life-threatening. Seek medical assistance immediately. Even if the person seems OK at first, keep a close watch, as symptoms may appear 1 hour or more after the trauma.

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF TBI?

MILD

MODERATE

SEVERE



70-90%

of brain injuries are considered to be of mild severity. Even though **mild TBI** may be less threatening than moderate and severe forms, it can still be serious and have complications. Concussion is a common type of mild TBI.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN COMPLICATIONS OF TBI?



Skull fracture and/or bleeding leading to brain damage



Post-concussion syndrome (PCS)



IN SOME CASES, TBI CAN LEAD TO PERMANENT DISABILITY AND EVEN DEATH

HOW IS TBI ASSESSED?



Initial assessment of injury severity, using specific clinical scores



CT* scan to evaluate potential TBI complications

Blood tests represent a new approach to potentially reduce the number of CT-scans in some cases of mild TBI.



*CT: Computed Tomography

HOW IS TBI TREATED?

MILD TBI

Optimal care may only be decided by a physician



Monitoring (24h)



Rest



Pain relievers

MODERATE/SEVERE TBI

Admission to hospital (ICU*, or ED** in some cases)



Close monitoring (24/7)



Medication and/or surgery if needed to reduce risk of further brain damage

*ICU: Intensive Care Unit **ED: Emergency Department

REFERENCES

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