

What is traumatic brain injury?

- Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is caused by a traumatic event affecting the head and brain of an accident, or non-accidental assault, victim.
- The injury occurs when the victim is hit by an object, or impacts on object, and or experiences significant force to the brain from speed and sudden deceleration.
- Traumatic brain injury may occur without actual physical contact with an object.
- Immediately following traumatic head injury, a victim may lose consciousness; have nausea, vomiting, amnesia, slurred speech, difficulty swallowing, respiratory problems, weakness, in one, or all, areas of the body and may also have convulsions.
- During recovery from traumatic brain injury a victim may experience symptoms such as visual disturbances, confusion, dizziness, headache, dizziness, tinnitus (ringing in ears), a lack of energy, sleep disturbances, mood instability, attention deficits, loss of a sense of taste and difficulty with concentration.
- Symptoms may not be noticed right away, and may have a gradual onset.
- Traumatic head injury victims may be pre-occupied with some symptoms and not notice other symptoms right away.
- Symptoms may change over the course of a year from the accident. Follow up treatment may be necessary long after the date of the injury.
- The most common causes of traumatic brain injuries are car accidents and falls, making up approximately 70% of head injury victims.
- Violence and contact sports cause about 20% of traumatic brain injuries.