

Information provided by: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**More information:** <https://www.cdc.gov/traumaticbraininjury/symptoms.html>

What are the Signs and Symptoms of Concussion?

Most people with a concussion recover well from symptoms experienced at the time of the injury. But for some people, symptoms can last for days, weeks, or longer. In general, recovery may be slower among older adults, young children, and teens. Those who have had a concussion in the past are also at risk of having another one. Some people may also find that it takes longer to recover if they have another concussion.

When to Seek Immediate Medical Attention**Danger Signs in Adults**

In rare cases, a person with a concussion may form a dangerous blood clot that crowds the brain against the skull. Contact your health care professional or emergency department right away if you experience these danger signs after a bump, blow, or jolt to your head or body:

- Headache that gets worse and does not go away.
- Weakness, numbness or decreased coordination.
- Repeated vomiting or nausea.
- Slurred speech.

The people checking on you should take you to an emergency department right away if you:

- Look very drowsy or cannot wake up.
- Have one pupil (the black part in the middle of the eye) larger than the other.
- Have convulsions or seizures.
- Cannot recognize people or places.
- Are getting more and more confused, restless, or agitated.
- Have unusual behavior.
- Lose consciousness.

Danger Signs in Children

Take your child to the emergency department right away if they received a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body, and:

- Have any of the danger signs for adults listed above.
- Will not stop crying and are inconsolable.
- Will not nurse or eat.

What are the Potential Effects of TBI?

The severity of a traumatic brain injury (TBI) may range from “mild” (i.e., a brief change in mental status or consciousness) to “severe” (i.e., an extended period of unconsciousness or amnesia after the injury).

A TBI can cause a wide range of functional short- or long-term changes affecting:

(Potential Effects continued...)

- **Thinking** (i.e., memory and reasoning);

- **Sensation** (i.e., sight and balance);
- **Language** (i.e., communication, expression, and understanding); and
- **Emotion** (i.e., depression, anxiety, personality changes, aggression, acting out, and social inappropriateness).¹

A TBI can also cause epilepsy and increase the risk for conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and other brain disorders.

About 75% of TBIs that occur each year are concussions or other forms of mild TBI.²

Repeated mild TBIs occurring over an extended period of time can result in cumulative neurological and cognitive deficits. Repeated mild TBIs occurring within a short period of time (i.e., hours, days, or weeks) can be catastrophic or fatal.³

For information on how to prevent TBI and the potentially serious effects from this injury, please visit our [TBI Prevention page \(https://www.cdc.gov/traumaticbraininjury/prevention.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/traumaticbraininjury/prevention.html).

CDC's HEADS UP campaign also includes steps to help protect children and teens from concussion and other serious head and brain injuries—both on and off the sports field. Learn more at

[HEADS UP's Brain Injury Safety Tips and Prevention page \(https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/basics/concussion_prevention.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/basics/concussion_prevention.html).

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