Brain Injury Glossary





Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

An injury to the brain caused when the head is shaken, struck, or pierced by an object

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Brain haemorrhage

Bleeding in or around the brain either as a result of a ruptured aneurysm, known as a haemorrhagic stroke, or following a significant blow to the head



Amnesia

A failure of memory to function. Post-traumatic amnesia occurs after a period of unconsciousness when the injured person is conscious and awake, but is behaving or talking in a bizarre or uncharacteristic manner



Hydrocephalus

A build-up of fluid on the brain causing pressure and ultimately damage. Acquired Hydrocephalus can be caused by head injuries



Alzheimer's disease

The most common type of dementia caused by parts of the brain shrinking. Head injuries have been found to increase the risk of triggering the disease



Acquired Brain Injury (ABI)

Any injury to the brain acquired after birth, other than a genetic or congenital defect (e.g. stroke, infection or brain tumor)



Concussion

A temporary disturbance in the brain's functioning as a result of a blow to the head



Hemiplegia

Paralysis of one side of the body, which is not uncommon following a brain injury



Motor Cortex

The area of the brain which controls movement



Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE)

Encephalopathy is a disease in which the function of the brain is affected by an agent or condition. CTE is a type of dementia often linked to contact sports associated with repeated blows to the head



Post-Concussion Syndrome

A series of symptoms that can occur long after the original minor head injury. These include headaches, nausea and memory problems



Closed Head Injury (CBI)

An injury to the brain that has occurred with no penetration to the scalp or skull



Cerebral Hypoxia

An interruption to the supply of oxygen in the brain, which can be caused by carbon monoxide poisoning, smoke inhalation or exposure to high altitudes. It is closely linked to birth trauma or operative treatment



Ischemic stroke

A type of stroke resulting from a blood clot in a blood vessel which causes a blockage of blood flow



Aneurism (or aneurysm)

When the wall of an artery gets weakened in the brain, causing a swelling or dilation



Parkinson's disease

A progressive brain disease which can reduce movement and cause rigidity and tremors, which may follow a severe head injury



Diplopia Double vision

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