



# Traumatic Brain (Head) Injury Facts

**Following a brain injury/concussion, you should be alert for symptoms**

**that may not show up for days or even weeks after the injury.**

**A child should return to the emergency department, see his/her physician or call 911 immediately if any one of these occurs:**

- Cannot be awakened (call 911)
- Seems increasingly sleepy
- Cannot stop vomiting (throwing up)
- Has a seizure(s) or a sudden onset of daydreaming or a fixed stare
- Has dramatic mood swings, very irritated, sad, or agitated
- Says he/she cannot see clearly or has blurred or double vision
- Is not speaking clearly, seems confused, or doesn't know who you are
- Has blood or clear fluid from the nose or ears
- Has increased headaches or neck stiffness
- Has pupils (black center of the eye) that are different sizes
- Is stumbling or has other problems with walking
- Is experiencing dizziness

**An adult should return to the emergency department, see his/her physician or call 911 immediately if he/she experiences any of the following:**

- Has trouble answering simple questions (What day is it? What happened to you?)
- Has trouble waking up completely
- Has a headache that is getting worse even after medication
- Has changes in behavior or personality or does not recognize friends/family
- Is still vomiting (throwing-up) 8 hours after the injury. Or vomiting that starts 1 to 2 hours after the injury
- Has pupils (black center of the eye) that are different sizes
- Is stumbling or has other problems with walking
- Has double vision, blurred vision, or visual field cuts
- Is slurring speech, or repeating questions
- Has seizures (convulsions), fixed stares, or "daydreaming"
- Is experiencing blood or clear fluid from the nose or ears
- Is experiencing dizziness

**If you notice that symptoms are getting worse since the injury or if you answer YES to the following questions, you should talk with the doctor about getting help.**

- Has there been a personality change?
- Does the individual get angry for no reason?
- Does the individual get lost or get easily confused?
- Does the individual have more trouble than usual making decisions?
- Is there a significant drop in performance (school, work, sports, social, etc.)?
- Are there problems in thinking processes (memory, concentration, learning, speaking, understanding)?

For more information call the Brain Injury Association of Florida Inc. at **800-992-3442** or visit their website at: **www.biaf.org**. Email, **info@biaf.org**.