

Concussion Recovery



A **concussion** is a blow to the head that causes the brain to move back and forth quickly. It is a type of traumatic brain injury.

If you have symptoms after a concussion, it doesn't mean that you will have complications or permanent brain damage. Most people who have a concussion will recover in a few hours, a week, or a few months.

Common causes of concussion include:



A car or bike crash



A fall



An assault



A sports injury



Most people who have a concussion have **temporary symptoms** that last for a brief time.

Common Concussion symptoms include:

Fatigue

A headache

Dizziness

Memory problems

Trouble thinking clearly

Issues with noise or bright light

Nausea

Poor concentration

Changes in mood or sleep

Blurry or double vision

Short-term disorientation

Irritability



To **improve** concussion symptoms, you should



Slow down and pace yourself.

Relax for a few hours or a day and slowly increase activity.

Try light exercise and mental activities.

Ask for support from work or school.



If you have concerns about your recovery, talk to your doctor.
Go to the emergency room right away if you notice varying levels to your awareness or motor abilities over the course of hours or days.

Did you know?

Repeated concussions can have a cumulative effect. It is important to take steps to prevent future injuries.



Support from your family and friends
can be helpful after a concussion. You may also want to talk to others who have been through similar experiences.

Source: Our health information content is based on research evidence and/or professional consensus and has been reviewed and approved by experts from the TBI Model Systems and Polytrauma Rehabilitation Centers. The resource has also been reviewed by American Indians with TBI and their family members. **Disclaimer:** This information is not meant to replace the advice of a medical professional. You should consult your health care provider regarding specific medical concerns or treatment. The contents of this resource were developed under grants from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR grant numbers 90DPKT0008 and 90DPKT0009). NIDILRR is a Center within the Administration for Community Living (ACL), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The contents of this resource do not necessarily represent the policy of NIDILRR, ACL, or HHS, and you should not assume endorsement by the federal government. **Copyright** © 2025 Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC). May be reproduced and distributed freely with appropriate attribution. Prior permission must be obtained for inclusion in fee-based materials.

