

Brochures to Order or Print from the Website

- ___ ABIN-PA Services
- ___ Brain Injury Basics
- ___ Building New Lives
- ___ Changes in Your Loved One
- ___ Children Require Rehabilitation
- ___ Criminal Justice
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- ___ Definitions
- ___ Discharge Planning
- ___ Domestic Violence
- ___ Everybody Knows Somebody
- ___ Families
- ___ Financial Planning
- ___ Healing Strategies
- ___ Law Officers: Info & Strategies
- ___ Medication Record
- ___ Partnering with Professionals
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- ___ Professionals You May Meet
- ___ Public Benefits
- ___ Rehabilitation
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- ___ Suicide Prevention
- ___ Telephone Book
- ___ Veterans

Brain Injury Resources

- ABIN-PA InfoLine 800-516-8052
www.abin-pa.org
- Area Agency on Aging (phone book)
- BIAA Help Line 800-444-6443
www.biausa.org
- BIAPA Resource Line 866-635-7097
- Brain Injury Help Line 866-412-4755
(PA DOH free literature, books)
- CHIP 484-477-2948
(Children's Health Insurance Program)
- Disability RightsNetwork
(SpEd, TBI, SS) 800-692-7443
- Elks Nurses (PA) 814-781-7860
(care plan if disabled before 22)
- Head Injury Program 717-772-2762
(1 year of rehab, \$100,000 max)
- Health Law Project 800-274-3258
(help with public benefits)
- Legal Aid (PA) 800-322-7572
- Meals on Wheels www.mealcall.org
- Medicaid Waivers 877-550-4227
(Help at home, COMM CARE)
- Medical Assistance 866-542-3015
(some adults, all disabled children)
- Medicare Coverage 800-633-4227
(24/7 line, A & B in-home services)
- Medicare Denials 800-322-1914
- Social Security 800-772-1213
(survivors, disability, low income)
- Special Ed Consult Line 800-879-2301
- Special Needs Help 800-521-6860
(Medicaid rehab for children)
- Vocational Rehab www.dli.state.pa.us

BRAIN INJURY DEFINITIONS



ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY
NETWORK OF PENNSYLVANIA
Office: 1-215-699-2139
Messages: 1-800-516-8052
Fax: 1-215-699-5139
Email: info@abin-pa.org
Website: www.abin-pa.org

Immediately after a brain injury, the **Acute Care Hospital** diagnoses and stabilizes the patient. Then the patient will be transferred to a **Rehabilitation Hospital** for therapy to restore function. If the patient is not ready to go home, a nursing home or group home may be necessary until skills return.

The **Glasgow Coma Scale** is used to assess improvement using best eye, verbal and motor responses. The **Rancho Los Amigos** scale measures daily progress.

A **Computerized Tomography Scan** takes multiple x-rays allowing cross-section views. **Magnetic Resonance Imagery** produces 3-D views with magnetic energy. An **Electroencephalogram (EEG)** records electrical activity in brain.

A **Closed Head Injury** means the skull and dura mater (membrane covering the brain) are intact. In an **Open Head Injury**, the skull has been fractured and the dura mater penetrated.

The **Central Nervous System (CNS)** includes the brain, spinal cord and the cerebrospinal fluid that cushions them both. The **Brain stem** at the top of the spinal cord controls heart rate, breathing, etc.

Secondary effects after an injury increase the risk to the brain. **Edema** (swelling due to fluid build-up) and **Hemorrhaging** (bleeding into the brain) cause damage by compressing the brain.

Brain cells or **neurons** have an unusual shape. **Dendrites** or tree branches receive messages, while a single **axon** or tail sends messages. Some axons are microscopic and some extend down the spine. In **Diffuse Axonal Injury**, the neuron “tails” fail to send their messages.

The brain has two hemispheres or halves. The **Left Cerebral Hemisphere** provides language, reading, writing, verbal memory, etc. The **Right Cerebral Hemisphere** handles perception, memories of shape, space, emotions, etc. Most tasks require both halves, which are connected by the **Corpus Callosum**.

A **Concussion, Head Injury, or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)** involves physical trauma plus impairment. The rating applies to the medical care needed, not to the return of function.

Mild—unconscious 0 to 1 hour.

Moderate—up to 24 hours.

Severe—more than 24 hours.

A person in a **Coma** does not respond to stimuli but may hear everything.

When the brain bounces inside the rough interior of the skull, there is a brain bruise opposite the impact called a **Contracoup Contusion**.

Post-traumatic means occurring after the accident, as in post-traumatic amnesia where the person has no memory of later events.

Neuropsychological deficits are common after a brain injury such as deficits in organization, memory, attention, and reasoning. **Working Memory** remembers what is happening now and helps organize behavior. **Cognition** means the ability to think, remember, plan, know, understand, solve problems.

Brain injury may block signals causing paralysis of the **voluntary** muscles or may interfere with **involuntary** functions such as eye blinking or swallowing.

Visual Neglect means the person ignores anything on one side, even one side of the body.

Activities of Daily Living are the independent living skills like eating, dressing, bathing.

Adaptive/Assistive Equipment is used for independence, safety, and ease as in sports, cooking, driving.