

Did You Know?

According to the Ontario Brain Injury Association, every year in Ontario 16,000 people sustain a brain injury, which translates into 44 individuals a day who sustain an acquired brain injury.

Annually, over 6,000 Canadians become permanently disabled as a result of an Acquired Brain Injury. In Ontario 4000 will die as a result of a Traumatic Brain Injury.

Common causes may included but not be limited to

MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISIONS:

pedestrian, driver, passenger

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE COLLISIONS:

all terrain vehicles (ATV's), motorcycles, seadoos, snowmobiles, boats

SPORTS INJURIES:

boxing, football, hockey, soccer, snowboarding, skiing, skateboarding, rugby, tobogganing, etc...

FALLS, ASSAULTS

MEDICAL OR DISEASE PROCESSES:

Cerebralvascular accidents, strokes, AVM, anoxia, hemorrhages, hematomas, encephalitis, meningitis, tumours (non-degenerative)

Common signs and symptoms that may indicate a brain injury has occurred:

- Confusion
- Dizziness, light headedness
- Complaining of headache, pain
- Nausea
- Blurred vision
- Combativeness
- Loss of sensations – taste, smell, hearing
- Unequal pupils
- Blood or fluid discharge from ears, nose or scalp
- Ringing in the ears
- Loss of consciousness – not an indicator if no LOC

Common consequences after an injury:

PHYSICAL:

Changes in motor and sensory abilities, headaches, pain...

PERCEPTUAL:

Changes in vision, hearing or sense of loss of touch, loss of taste...

COGNITIVE:

Changes in attention, memory, concentration, reasoning, initiation and motivation....

BEHAVIOURAL/EMOTIONAL:

Anger, anxiety, depression, impulsivity, inappropriateness, personality change...

PSYCHOSOCIAL:

Sense of feeling different, strained family relationships, loss of friends, difficulty in returning to work or school, loss of job/career, role changes, inactivity...