

TBI Screening

This utility provides a quick reference for community professionals who may not be experts in brain injury but want to identify persons in need of more comprehensive assessment. Assessment is important because TBI sometimes causes behavior changes or unusual responses that interfere with treatment. Presented are questions to be used as a screening instrument.

Ask About...	Listen For...
<p>Trauma</p> <p>Have you ever:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Been injured following a blow to your head? • Been hospitalized or treated in an emergency room following an injury? • Had any major surgeries? broken bones? illnesses? strokes? heart attack? • Been unconscious following an accident or injury? If so, how long? • Been injured in a fight? • Been injured by a spouse or family member? 	<p>Trauma</p> <p>The overriding principle of this category is to determine if a trauma or injury to the brain has possibly occurred. A positive response would be identified by a blow to the head, a fall, etc., which resulted in loss of consciousness. Be sure to ask about visible scars or marks. Greater than momentary loss of consciousness is felt to be a significant injury, although multiple mild injuries such as fights can also have additive effects over time without significant loss of consciousness.</p>

Behavior

Since the trauma:

- Do you get stuck on one thought and find you cannot switch to something else, even when you try?
- Is it harder to start new things?
- Do you do things impulsively?
- Do you say things you wish you had not or "put your foot in your mouth?"
- Do you notice changes with any of the following abilities or conditions following your injury?

Irritability	Problem solving
Impulsivity	Time management
Social skills	Memory loss
Attention/concentration	Sensitivity to bright light or noise
Judgment	Walking or balance
Confusion	Speech

Behavior

With the identification of a possible trauma, this category helps to evaluate if the injury resulted in a change in behavior during the hours and days after the injury. Following trauma to the brain, the person may become confused, impulsive and forgetful. Such changes, even if short in duration, are a further indication that the injury has resulted in changes with cognitive function.

Impact

Since you were injured, have you:

- Had problems keeping a job or lost a job?
- Noticed changes in your relationships with your family (wife, husband, parents, friends)?
- Had your friends or family members point out changes to you?
- Been treated by a psychiatrist or psychologist?
- Ever taken medication for seizures?
- Been on probation or parole or awaiting charges?
- Noticed headaches, dizziness, vision problems, or fatigue?

Impact

Examining quality of life since the injury, this category looks at the long-term effects the injury has presented. Even following medical recovery, the patient/client may have noticed significant life changes. At times, these differences are not even attributed to the injury until properly identified. Role alterations with family members, difficulties getting or keeping a job, and emotional changes are often reported.

What Is Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)?

1. A traumatic brain injury is damage to the brain caused by an external force, like a blow to the head. Moving vehicle accidents account for a majority of these injuries, followed by falls and assaults.

2. Brain injury occurs primarily to young people. Because of their young age, they are more likely to survive after severe injury, but they may face a dramatically changed life.



3. Serious brain injuries cause loss of consciousness lasting from a few minutes to days, weeks, or months. Intellectual impairment, short-term memory loss, speech problems, personality changes, behavioral disorders, and physical disability are common. Individuals and their families often face a long period of rehabilitation.