

## **Learning Objectives**

- 1. Define concussion and understand its neurometabolic mechanisms
- 2. Be informed on the tools to assess concussion on the sideline and in the clinical setting
- 3. Understand pediatric concussion outcomes and persistent symptoms
- 4. Understand second impact syndrome and that laws the exist to help prevent it from occurring
- 5. Be informed on the CDC HEADS UP concussion campaign and the return to play/school guidelines
- 6. Understand how to treat recurrent concussions and clearance for patients with a history of a structural TBI
- 7. Current resources available for healthcare providers for pediatric concussion management



# **Disclosures**

No relevant disclosures



# "But we don't operate on it?"





## Introduction

- We see TONS of it and talk to families about it
- We help guide and counsel families of children who have it and provide referral to the appropriate resources and assist with return to activities
- Understanding concussion is <u>essential</u> as a pediatric neurosurgeon



## **History**



- The recognition of concussion as a clinical syndrome separate from structural TBI is not new:
  - The Arabic physician **Rhazes** (10<sup>th</sup> Century) described the entity of concussion, and first used the term



• The Italian physician **Lanfrancus** (1306 AD) discussed "commotion cerebri" as a separate entity from structural brain injury



## **Impact**

- Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a serious public health concern
  - 1–2 million sport-related concussions each year in children













## **Pediatric Concussion**

- Most TBI (70-90%) are mild in severity (i.e. concussion)
- Estimated cost to society in the United States from concussion (medical and loss of work): \$17 billion





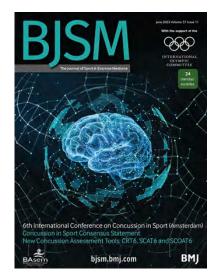
Consensus statement

Consensus statement on concussion in sport: the 6th Sports Medicine International Conference on Concussion in Sport-Amsterdam, October 2022

## What is a concussion?

Concussion in Sport Group (CISG) had its 6th meeting in Amsterdam in 2022:

- A traumatic brain injury caused by a direct blow to the head, neck, or body
- Results in an impulsive force being transmitted to the brain
- This initiates a neurotransmitter and metabolic cascade, with possible axonal injury, blood flow change and inflammation affecting the brain
- Symptoms/signs may be immediate or evolve over minutes or hours, and commonly resolve within days or may be prolonged



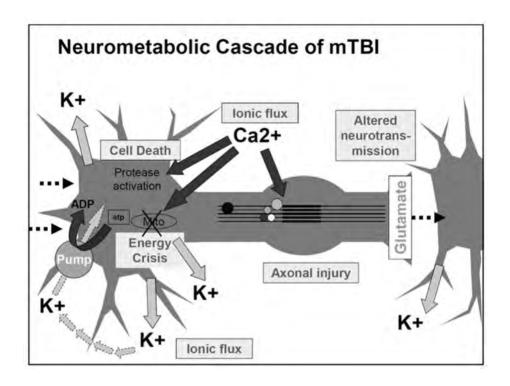


## What is a concussion?

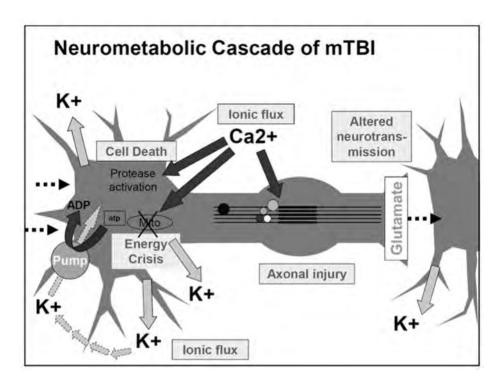


- No abnormalities seen on structural neuroimaging (CT/MRI)
  - But may been seen in the research setting on advanced neuroimaging
- May or may not involve the loss of consciousness
- The symptoms or signs not explained solely by drug, alcohol, medication use, other injuries (cervical injuries, peripheral vestibular dysfunction) or other comorbidities (psychological factors or coexisting medical conditions)
- Concussion does not have severity levels

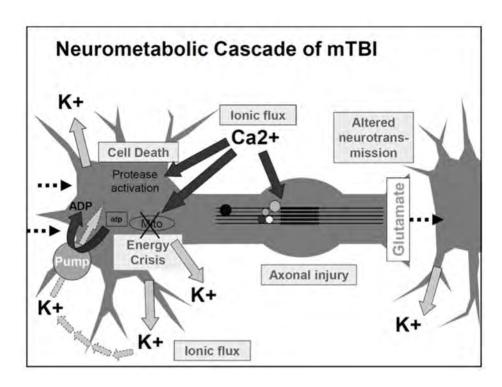




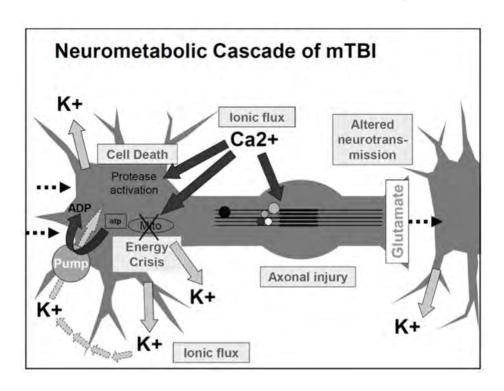
Force to brain induces
 mechanoporation of lipid membranes



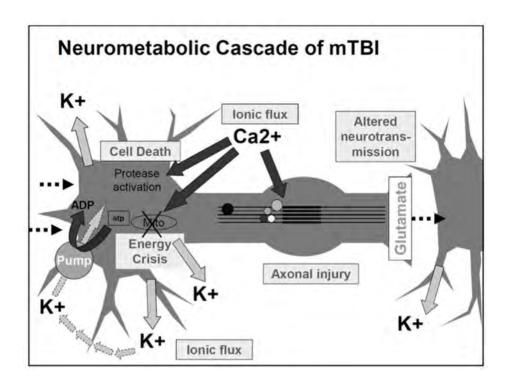
• Ion flux that trigger gated channels



 Glutamate release leading to corticalspreading depression

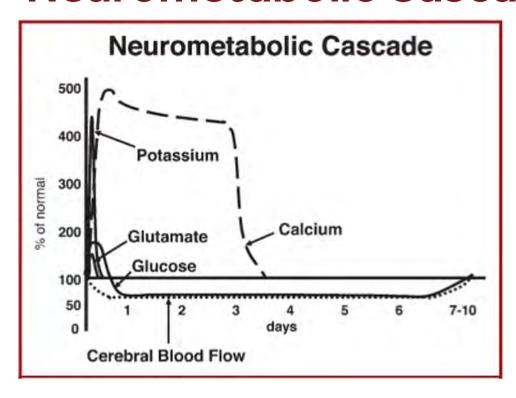


- Energy Crisis: The cells energy reserve are depleted attempting to restore homeostasis
  - ATP membrane ionic pumps shift into overdrive



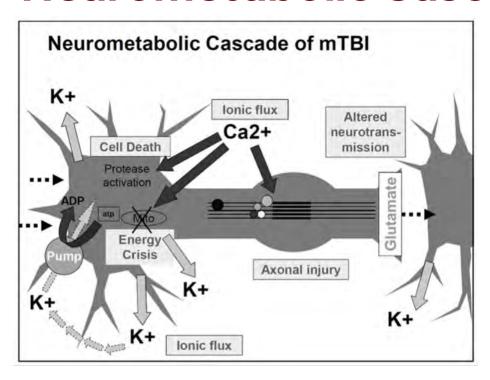
- Depletion of energy reserves with normal or reduced cerebral blood flow
  - Mismatch of supply and demand



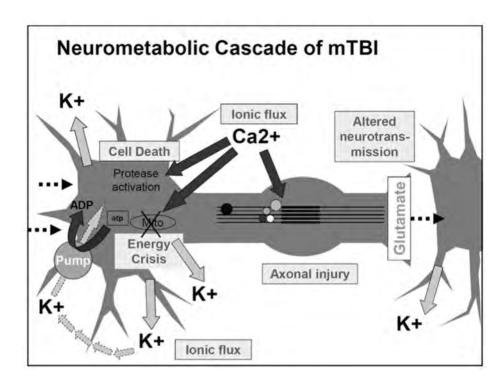


- Calcium influx into cell
- Sequestered by mitochondria
- Oxidative metabolism impaired and further worsens the energy crisis

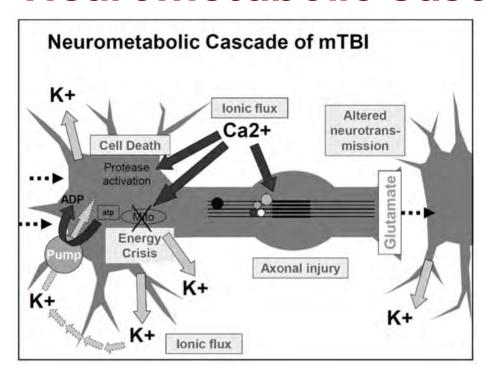




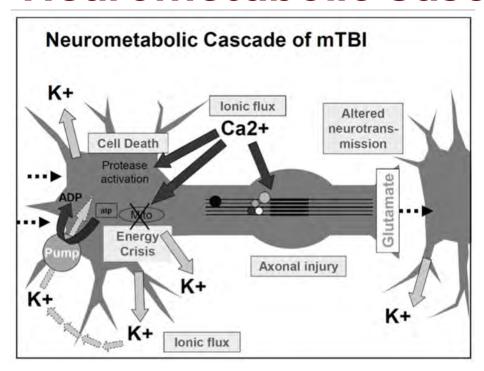
- After initial period of hyperglycolysis, glycolysis is impaired for 7-10 days
- Thought to correlate to greatest vulnerability to second impact



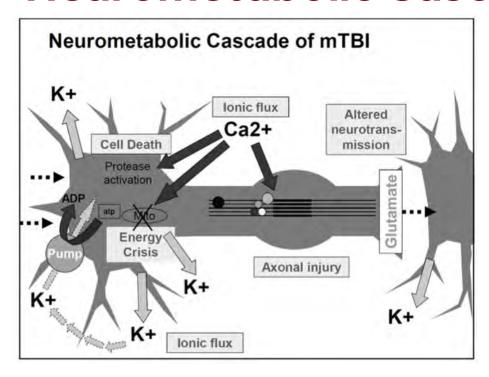
 Microtubules and cytoskeleton become injured



- Altered
   Neurotransmission
- GABAergic neurons become dysfunctional



 NMDA receptors become dysfunctional



 Inflammatory factors and abnormal protein aggregation within cells

## Connection with signs/symptoms?

Physiological perturbations after concussion and proposed clinical correlates.

Post-TBI pathophysiology	Acute symptom / clinical correlate	
Ionic flux	Migraine headache, photophobia, phonophobia	
Energy crisis	Vulnerability to second injury	
Axonal injury	Impaired cognition, slowed processing, slowed reaction time	
Impaired neurotransmission	Impaired cognition, slowed processing, slowed reaction time	
Protease activation, altered cytoskeletal proteins, cell death	Chronic atrophy, development of persistent impairments	



## **Diagnosing a Concussion**

- The diagnosis of a concussion is a clinical judgement (history and exam)
- A diagnosis can be made even if the screening tests are negative
- Some common symptoms include:
  - Confusion
  - Headache
  - Vision disturbances (double/blurry)
  - Photophobia
  - Dizziness or imbalance
  - Nausea or vomiting
  - Memory loss
  - Ringing ears
  - Difficulty concentrating
  - Sleep disturbances

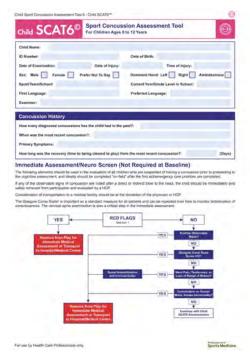


## **Red Flags/Warning Signs**

- Any period of loss of consciousness or Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS <15) require more careful evaluation
  - Neurologic deficits
  - Altered mental status
  - Seizures
  - Weakness or numbness
  - Worsening headache
  - Intractable vomiting
  - Deteriorating status
- The presence of any of these red flags necessitates removal from play, appropriate on-site treatment and immediate transport to a hospital for further evaluation



#### **Child Sport Concussion Assessment Tool - 6 (SCAT6)**



8-page series of questions meant to be used by **healthcare professionals** 

- Supports the clinical diagnosis of concussion
- Ideally within 72hrs (up to 7 days)
- Ages 8 to 12



#### **Child Sport Concussion Office Assessment Tool – 6 (SCOAT6)**



14-page series of questions

- healthcare professionals in office setting
- Supports the clinical diagnosis of concussion
- After 72 hrs
- Ages 8 to 12



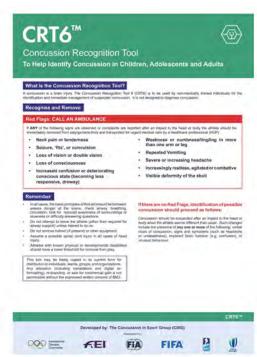
#### **Acute Concussion Evaluation (ACE)**



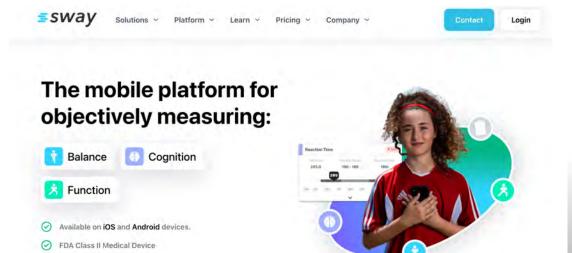
- 1 page series of questions
- healthcare professionals in office setting
- Can be used for diagnosis but also tracking symptom domains
- Important for track and proper referral

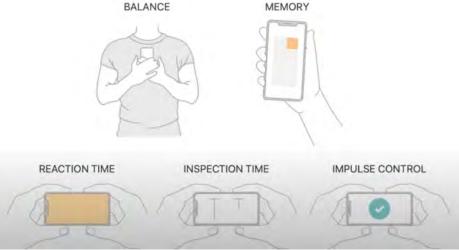


#### **Concussion Recognition Tool 6 (CRT6)**



- 2-page screening tool
- Non medically trained to help identify concussion and aid in the immediate management





#### **Outcomes**

- 25–30% experience persistent symptoms
- Symptoms continuing beyond 28 days are termed:
  - Persistent postconcussion symptoms (PPCS)
- Children's learning, social development, and mental health
- Physician's poor at predicting







#### **Outcomes**



**Table 1:** 5P Rule Criteria for Risk Assessment of PPCS

Risk Factor	Categories	Points
Age group	5 to 7	0
	8 to 12	1
	13 to <18	2
Sex	Male	0
	Female	2
Prior concussion and symptom duration	None; <1 week	0
	Yes; ≥1 week	1
Migraine history	No	0
	Yes	1
Answering questions slowly	No	0
	Yes	1
Tandem stance number of errors	0-3	0
	≥4 or unable to do test	1
Headache	No	0
	Yes	1
Sensitivity to noise	No	0
	Yes	1
Fatigue	No	0
	Yes	2

PPCS = termed persistent postconcussion symptoms







#### Original Investigation

March 8, 2016

Clinical Risk Score for Persistent Postconcussion Symptoms Among Children With Acute Concussion in the ED

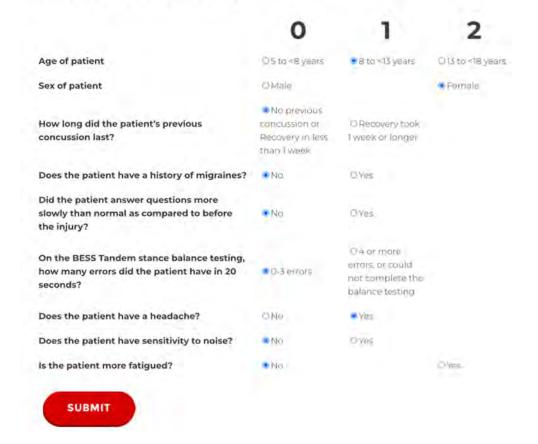
Roger Zemek, MD<sup>1</sup>, Nick Barrowman, PhD<sup>2</sup>, Stephen B. Freidman, MDCM, MSc<sup>3</sup>, et al. Roger Zemek, MD<sup>1</sup>, Nick Barrowman, PhD<sup>2</sup>, Stephen B. Freidman, MDCM, MSc<sup>3</sup>, et al.

Adapted from: Zemek R, Barrowman N, Freedman SB, et al. Clinical Risk Score for Persistent Postconcussion Symptoms Among Children With Acute Concussion in the ED Children With Acute Concussion Presenting to the Emergency Department Children With Acute Concussion Presenting to the Emergency Department. JAMA. 2016;315(10):1014-1025.



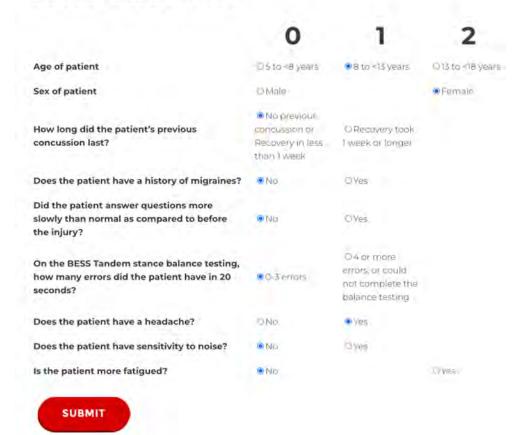
#### Score Calculator

**Outcomes** 





#### Score Calculator



#### **Score Calculator**



The patient is MEDIUM risk for having persistent symptoms lasting beyond one month.











Neurology, Neurosurgery & Psychiatry

Neurosurgery

Original research

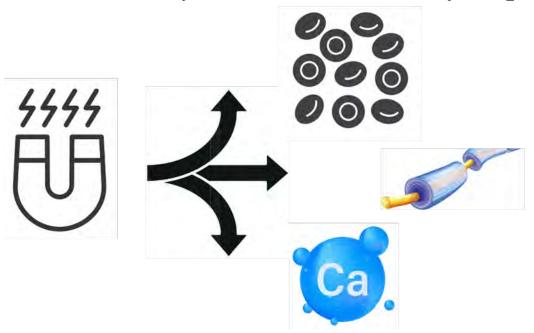
# Can quantitative susceptibility mapping help diagnose and predict recovery of concussion in children? An A-CAP study

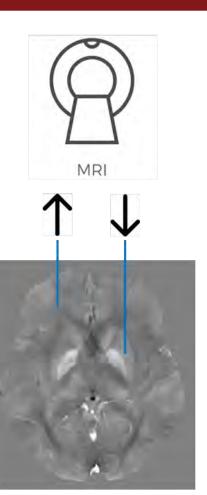
Nicholas Sader , <sup>1</sup> David Gobbi, <sup>1,2,3,4</sup> Brad Goodyear, <sup>1,2,3,4</sup> Richard Frayne, <sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup> Ashley L Ware, <sup>3,6,7,8</sup> Miriam H Beauchamp, <sup>9</sup> William R Craig, <sup>10</sup> Quynh Doan, <sup>11</sup> Roger Zemek, <sup>12,13</sup> Jay Riva-Cambrin, <sup>1,7</sup> Keith Owen Yeates, <sup>3,7,8</sup> On behalf of the Pediatric Emergency Research Canada A-CAP study team



• Novel extension of <u>susceptibility-weighted imaging</u>

• Possibility of neuroinflamatory response







# **Specific Aims**

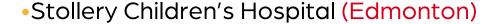
- 1. Assess **post-acute differences** in QSM between children with concussion and a comparison group of children with mild orthopaedic injury (OI)
- 2. Determine whether post-acute QSM makes an incremental contribution to the prediction of PPCS at 4 weeks post-injury, over and above the acute 5P risk score





- •Children (N=967) aged 8–17 years with concussion or OI were recruited from 5 Canadian pediatric emergency departments
- .•Alberta Children's Hospital (Calgary)
- Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (Ottawa)





British Columbia Children's Hospital (Vancouver)







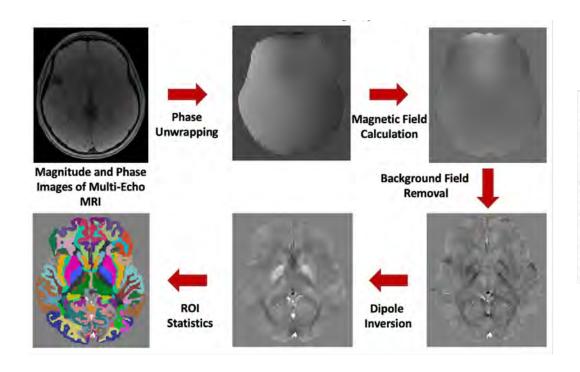


Table 2: *QSM ROI white matter and subcortical grey matter* 

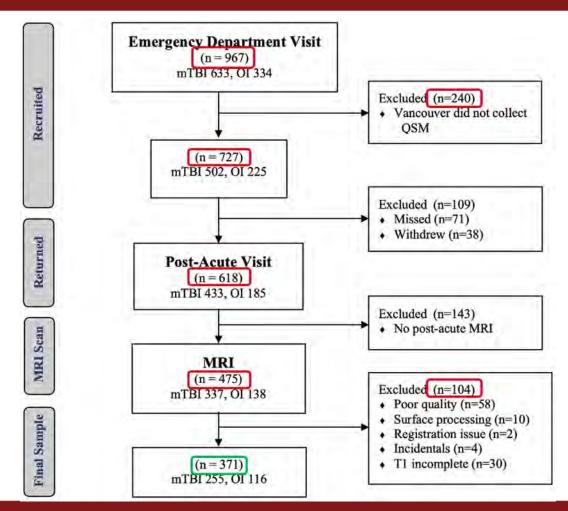
White Matter ROI	Grey Matter ROI
Frontal	Thalamus
Parietal	Basal Ganglia
Temporal	Hippocampus
Occipital	
Insula	
Corpus Callosum	

QSM = Quantitative Susceptibility Mapping, ROI = Region of Interest

- Individualized z-scores were calculated for each ROI for each participant

$$ZScore_{i}^{j} = \frac{(\bar{X}_{i}^{j} - \mu_{i})}{\sigma_{i}}$$





## Aim 1

Multivariable Linear Regression Analyses

- •Covariates: Age at injury, MRI Scanner, and Sex
- •Did not reveal a statistically significant difference in any postacute ROI QSM Z-score between concussion and OI children in any region

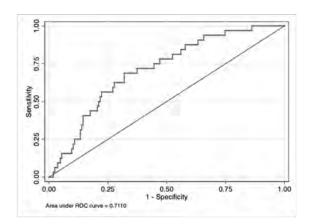


## Aim 2

- <u>Increased</u> frontal white matter susceptibility was significantly associated with predicting parent-rated reliable change in cognitive symptoms (p=0.001)
- Model with frontal white matter and the 5P risk score performed better at predicting parent-rated reliable change in cognitive symptoms than the model with the 5P risk score alone (p=0.0021)
- No statistically significant association between QSM regions and other three PPCS outcomes (Parent Somatic, Child Cognitive + Somatic)



## **QSM** region only model



$$AUC = 0.71(0.62-0.80)$$

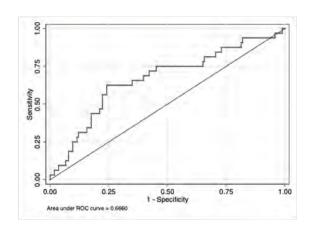
Sensitivity = 65.6%

Specificity = 68.1%

PPV = 28.4%

NPV = 91.1%

## 5P risk score only model



AUC = 0.67(0.56-0.78)

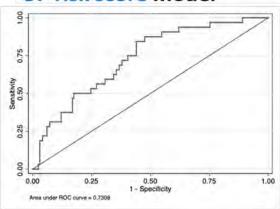
Sensitivity = 59.4%

Specificity = 75.9%

PPV = 32.2%

NPV = 90.6%

## Combined QSM region and 5P risk score model



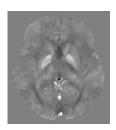
$$AUC = 0.73(0.64-0.82)$$

$$PPV = 27.0\%$$

$$NPV = 94.9\%$$











- No significant group difference in post acute QSM ROI between concussion and OI children
- Susceptibility within the frontal white matter as a potential MRI biomarker that predicts persistent symptoms in children with concussion compared to the current clinical benchmark
  - Suggest a potential pathophysiological substrate associated with persistent symptoms
- Potential for using QSM to assist in the clinical management of concussion in children
- Currently looking at follow up 3- and 6-month MRI scans

**Future:** Test a-priori in different population + improvement in QSM reconstruction and analysis



## **Collaborating Authors**



**Dr. Jay Riva-Cambrin**MSc, MD, FRCSC



**Dr. Keith Yeates**PhD, RPsych, ABPP, FCAHS



Dr. Brad Goodyear PhD



Dr. David Gobbi PhD

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Dr. Ashley L Ware PhD – University of Calgary

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Dr. William R Craig MD – University of Alberta

Dr. Quynh Doan MD PhD – University of British Columbia

Dr. Roger Zemek MD – University of Ottawa

## **Funding and Support**











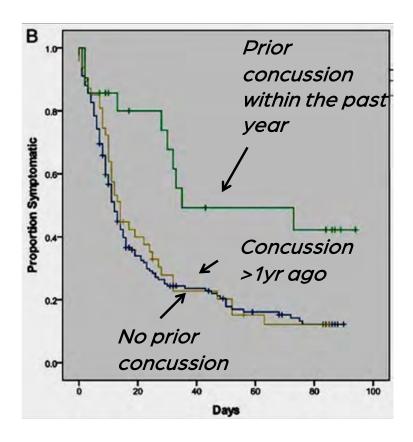






## **Outcomes**

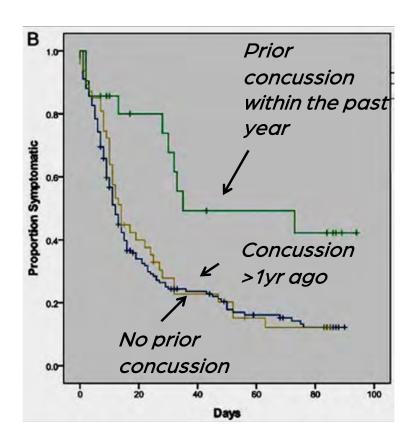
- Prospective cohort study
- 280 Patients, 11-20yrs
- Kids with a prior
   concussion are at risk for
   prolonged symptoms
   (median: 24 days vs. 12
   days (p=0.02)





## **Outcomes**

Median symptom duration
was even longer for patients
with multiple concussions
(28 days, P=0.03) and for
those who sustained a
concussion within previous
year (35 days, p=0.007)





## **PEDIATRICS**°

ARTICLE | FEBRUARY 01 2015

## 

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Address correspondence to Danny G. Thomas, MD, MPH, Department of Pediatrics, Emergency Medicine, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Corporate Center, 999 N. 92nd St, Suite C550, Milwaukee, WI 53226. E-mail: <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/jdt.100

- RCT of strict rest after acute concussion; age 11–22 yrs; 99 kids enrolled:
  - Kids who followed typical recommendation ("take 1–2 days rest before stepwise return to school/activity") recovered faster and had better symptom resolution, compared to a group with 5 day of mandatory rest
  - No difference in neurocognitive or balance outcomes



# **Second Impact Syndrome**

 Diffuse cerebral edema thought to result from impaired autoregulation that occurs with subsequent concussive injury



# **Second Impact Syndrome**

 Varying degrees of rest have been recommended in the past and when to return to activities



## **Zackery Lystedt Law (House Bill 1824)**

- May 2009
  - Washington state was the first to pass actual law requiring removal of youth from play after concussion on the day of injury, with required clearance from a licensed health provider prior to RTP
  - Every state followed adopting similar law



## **Zackery Lystedt Law (House Bill 1824)**

"There is no one tougher than my son. Sometimes players and parents wrongly believe that it shows strength and courage to play injured. Battling pain is glamorized. Zack couldn't swallow or hold his head up. Strength is seeing Zack stand up out of his wheelchair and learning to talk again."

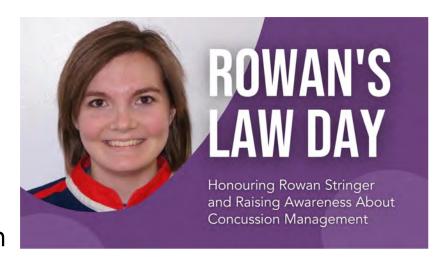
Victor Lystedt, Zack's Dad.



Zackery Lystedt

## Rowan's Law

- June 2016
  - Ontario, Canada was the first province to pass a law similar to previous
  - All other provinces in Canada have adopted something similar
  - Rowans Law Day last Wednesday in September



# Recovery

- Current guidelines recommend rest for the first 24 to 48 hours
- Avoiding physical and cognitive activities that worsen symptoms
- Must be restricted from physical activity, sports, and playground activity until cleared by a healthcare professional







# Recovery

- Allows symptom burden to decrease
- Followed by the gradual return to cognitive and physical activities as tolerated
- This approach minimizes both the risk of secondary injury and the potential social isolation and academic consequences of prolonged removal.

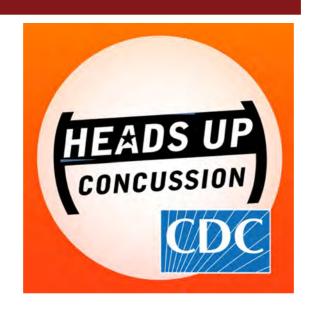






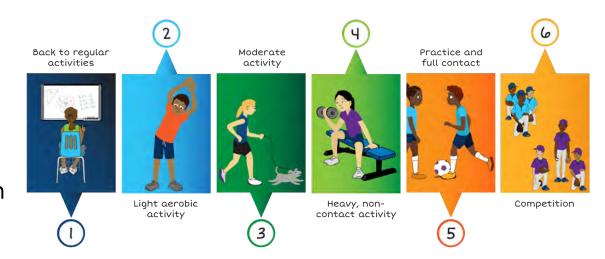
# **HEADS UP Concussion (CDC)**

 It is a campaign initiative to help coaches, parents, patients, and medical professions with the diagnosis, prevention, treatment and return to play surrounding concussions



# **6 Step Return to Play**

- Remove from sport if sustained concussion
- Take at least 24h off from sports; get medical clearance.
- After that, do these 6 steps, with a minimum of 1 day between
- If symptoms come back or new symptoms, contact medical professional





## **Return to School**

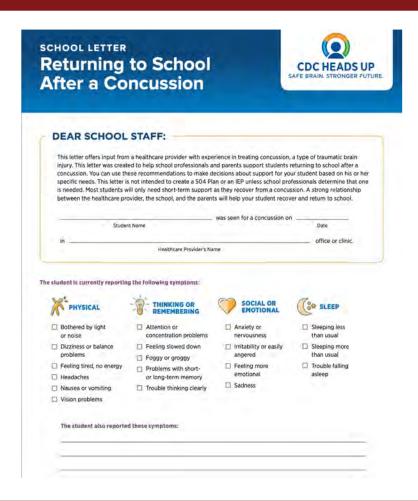
- Most kids can return to school 1 to 2 days after concussion
- Can shorten their recovery and reduce likelihood of mental health symptoms
- Letter for schools to be filled out by medical professional
  - Help school provide strategies for support and recovery





## **Return to School**

- Ongoing multi-source assessment is crucial as students reintegrate into school environment
- Evaluations from teachers, caregivers, parents ect. must be combined to develop an overall impression of the child's recovery and integration into school





# Oklahoma State Department of Health

Excellent resources on concussion for:













## **Parents and Guardians**



### **Concussion Facts** Parents & Guardians



## What is a concussion?

When an athlete gets their "bell rung" or gets "lit up" they have suffered a concussion. Concussions are a type of traumatic brain injury (TBI). When a child or adolescent sustains a concussion, their brain may bounce or twist inside the skull, sometimes stretching or damaging brain cells and causing chemical changes within the brain. This movement interrupts the brain's functioning and can impact your child physically, emotionally, cognitively, and behaviorally.



### How do concussions happen?

Concussions are caused by a bump, blow, hit, or jolt to the head or body that moves the head and brain rapidly back and forth. Common causes are falls and being hit against or by another person or object. Your child's head does not have to be struck to cause a concussion — a body-to-body hit has the potential to cause a concussion.



### Can concussion risk be reduced?

YES! There are ways to reduce your child's risk of a concussion. Talk to your child about practicing good sportsmanship and following coaches' instructions for safe game play. Make sure bicycle, athletic, and ATV helmets fit properly and are worn consistently. While a helmet doesn't prevent a concussion, it does protect your child's head from more severe head injuries. Make sure your child's school and sports organizations have established concussion policies and protocols; they should have procedures in place for coach training and returning to learn and play after a concussion.



## Can my child keep playing after

The brain needs time to heal after a concussion. An athlete who continues to play or who returns to play too soon - before the brain has finished healing - has a greater chance of getting another concussion. A repeat concussion that occurs while the brain is still healing can be very serious and can affect a child for a lifetime. It can even be fatal. If you suspect your child has sustained a concussion during a practice or a game, make sure they are immediately removed from play. Do not allow your child to return to play on the same day as the injury.

## SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

There are many signs and symptoms of a concussion. Concussion symptoms may appear minutes, hours, or days after the initial injury. Symptoms may be physical, emotional, behavioral, or cognitive (affect thinking). You may observe these signs in your child or your child may report symptoms to you.

#### Physical

- Headache or pressure in the head
- Dizziness, balance problems
- · Nausea or vomiting · Sensitivity to noise.
- ringing in ears
- · Sensitivity to light, blurry or double
- Feels tired
- Tingling
- · Does not "feel right"
- · Seems dazed, stunned

#### Emotional/Behavioral

- Recomes irritable
- · Becomes sad or depressed · More emotional than
- usual · Anxious or nervous
- · Personality or behavioral changes, such as becoming impulsive

#### Cognitive

- · Trouble thinking clearly
- · Trouble concentrating · Trouble remembering,
- can't recall events before or after the hit
- · Feels sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
- · Feels "slowed down"
- · Repeats questions or answers questions more slowly
- Confusion
- · Forgets routine things

#### **DANGER SIGNS**

If one or more of these signs emerges after a hit to the head or body, IMMEDIATELY call 911 or take your child to the nearest emergency room.

- · One pupil larger than the other
- · Drowsy or cannot wake up
- · Headache that gets worse and does not go away
- · Slurred speech, weakness, numbness
- Decreased coordination
- Loss of consciousness
- · Repeated vomiting or ongoing nausea
- · Shaking or twitching
- (convulsions or seizures) · Unusual behavior, increased
- confusion, restlessness, or









## **Youth Athletes**



### **Concussion Facts** Youth Athletes



### What is a concussion?

When an athlete gets their "bell rung" or gets "lit up" they have suffered a concussion. Concussions are a type of traumatic brain injury (TBI). Concussions are caused by a bump, blow, hit, or jolt to the head or body that moves the head and brain rapidly back and forth. Falling or being hit against or by another person or object are common causes of concussions. Your head doesn't have to be struck to cause a concussion; for example, a body-to-body hit has the potential to cause a concussion



### What does a concussion do to my brain?

When you experience a concussion, your brain may bounce or twist inside your skull, sometimes stretching or damaging brain cells and causing chemical changes within the brain. A concussion interrupts your brain's functioning. When your brain is injured by a concussion, the injury can affect you physically, emotionally, behaviorally, and/or cognitively (how you think).



### Can concussion risk be reduced?

YES! There are ways to reduce your risk of a concussion. Practice good sportsmanship and follow your coach's instructions for safe game play. If you play contact sports, learn the fundamentals and appropriate techniques. Make sure bicycle, athletic, and ATV helmets fit properly and are worn consistently. While a helmet doesn't prevent a concussion, it does protect your head from more severe injuries.



# Can I keep playing after

Your brain needs time to heal after a concussion. If you continue to play or return to play too soon-before your brain has finished healing-you have a greater chance of getting another concussion. A repeat concussion that occurs while your brain is still healing can be very serious and can affect you for a lifetime. It can even be fatal. If you think you may have sustained a concussion during a practice or game, immediately talk to your coach, game official, athletic trainer, or parent/guardian and remove yourself from play. Do not return to play on the same day as the injury. You need to see a health care provider to be evaluated for a concussion and given written clearance to return to play.

## SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

There are many signs and symptoms of a concussion. Concussion symptoms may appear minutes, hours, or days after the initial injury. Symptoms may be physical, emotional, behavioral, or cognitive (affect thinking). You may notice these symptoms vourself or someone else may observe them. If you experience any of these symptoms after a blow to the head or body, tell someone immediately.

#### Physical

- Headache or
- pressure in the head Dizziness, balance
- Nausea or vomiting
- Sensitivity to noise. ringing in ears
- Sensitivity to light. blurry or double
- · Feel tired
- Tinalina
- · Do not "feel right" · Feel dazed, stunned

- Emotional/Behavioral · Become irritable
- · Become sad or depressed
- · More emotional than usual
- · Anxious or nervous · Personality or
- hehavioral changes such as becoming impulsive

#### Coanitive · Trouble thinking clearly

- · Trouble concentrating
- · Trouble remembering, can't recall events before or after the hit
- · Feel sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
- · Feel "slowed down" · Repeat questions or answer questions more
- Confusion
- · Forget routine things

#### DANGER SIGNS

If one or more of these symptoms emerges after a hit to the head or body, IMMEDIATELY call 911 or get someone to drive you to the nearest emergency room.

- · One pupil larger than the other
- · Drowsy or cannot wake up
- Headache that gets worse and does not go away
- Slurred speech, weakness, numbness
- · Decreased coordination · Loss of consciousness
- · Repeated vomiting or ongoing
- · Shaking or twitching (convulsions or seizures)
- · Unusual behavior increased
- confusion, restlessness, or agitation









## Coaches



## **Concussion Facts**

Coaches



#### What is a concussion?

When an athlete gets their "bell rung" or gets "lit up" they have suffered a concussion. A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury (TBI) caused by a bump, blow, hit, or jolt to the head or body that moves the head and brain rapidly back and forth. This sudden movement can cause the brain to bounce or twist inside the skull, sometimes stretching and damaging brain cells and creating chemical changes in the brain. The effects of a concussion can be serious and should be treated as such. The brain continues to grow and develop into the mid-twenties; disruptions to that development from a TBI in childhood or adolescence can have long-term consequences on the brain's functioning.



### When an athlete takes a hit

If you suspect an athlete has sustained a concussion, immediately remove them from play. Do **not** allow the athlete to return to play on the same day as the injury (unless the athlete is evaluated by a licensed health care provider who provides written clearance allowing same-day return to play). Record the time and circumstances of the injury, along with any concussion signs/symptoms you observe or the athlete reports to you, and provide this information to the medical team.



### WHEN IN DOUBT, SIT THEM OUT

The brain needs time to heal after a concussion. An athlete who continues to play or who returns to play too soon - before the brain has finished healing - has a greater chance of getting another concussion. A repeat concussion that occurs while the brain is still healing can be very serious and can affect an athlete for a lifetime. It can even be fatal.



MYTH: A concussion always causes you to lose consciousness (pass out).

FACT: Most concussions don't cause you to pass out. In fact, concussion symptoms may not appear for hours or days after the hit.

## SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

There are many signs and symptoms of a concussion. Concussion symptoms may appear minutes, hours, or days after the initial injury. Symptoms may be physical, emotional, behavioral, or cognitive (affect thinking). You may observe these signs in an athlete or the athlete may report symptoms to you.

#### Physical

- · Headache or pressure in the head
- · Dizziness, balance problems
- Nausea or vomiting · Sensitivity to noise.
- ringing in ears Sensitivity to light, blurry or double
- vision · Feels tired
- Tingling
- · Does not "feel right"
- · Seems dazed,

#### Emotional/Behavioral

- · Becomes irritable · Becomes sad or
- depressed · More emotional than
- usual · Anxious or nervous
- Personality or behavioral changes, such as becoming impulsive

#### Cognitive

- · Trouble thinking clearly
- · Trouble concentrating · Trouble remembering, can't recall events
- before or after the hit · Feels sluggish, hazy,
- foggy, or groggy · Feels "slowed down"
- · Repeats questions or answers questions more slowly
- Confusion
- · Forgets routine things

#### DANGER SIGNS

If one or more of these signs emerges after a hit to the head or body, IMMEDIATELY call 911 or tell the parent/guardian to take the athlete to the nearest emergency room.

- · One pupil larger than the other
- · Drowsy or cannot wake up
- · Headache that gets worse and does not go away
- · Slurred speech, weakness, numbness
- · Decreased coordination
- · Loss of consciousness
- · Repeated vomiting or ongoing
- · Shaking or twitching
- (convulsions or seizures)
- · Unusual behavior, increased confusion, restlessness, or agitation









## **Return to Learn**

### **RETURN TO LEARN:**

**BACK TO CLASS AFTER A CONCUSSION** 

#### WHAT IS A CONCUSSION AND HOW CAN IT IMPACT LEARNING?

- » A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury (TBI) caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body that moves the head and brain rapidly back and forth, causing the brain to bounce or twist in the skull. Concussion symptoms can impact a student physically, cognitively, and emotionally. These symptoms may disrupt the student's ability to learn, concentrate, keep track of assignments, process and retain new information, tolerate light and noise, and appropriately regulate emotions and behaviors. School professionals play a vital role in creating a culture that values safety and open communication, encourages students to report symptoms, and supports students throughout the process of recovery. Teachers and other school staff can provide symptom-based classroom accommodations while the student's brain continues to heal from the concussion. Supports can be lifted as the brain heals and concussion symptoms no longer keep the student from full classroom participation
- ➤ After a concussion, it is as important to rest the brain as it is the body. Students will need an initial break, usually 2 to 3 days, from cognitive activities such as problem solving, concentrating or heavy thinking, learning new things, memorizing, reading, texting, computer or mobile device time, video games, and watching television. Upon clearance from their health care provider, students can gradually return to learning activities.
- > Providing appropriate support for a student returning to school after a concussion requires a collaborative team approach. Teachers, school counselors, school nurses, school administration, parents/guardians, the student, and the student's health care provider are examples of these team members. Continuous communication between students, caregivers, health care providers, and school staff is vital to ensure the student's individual needs are understood and consistently met by their support team throughout recovery

#### CONCUSSION SIGNS TO WATCH FOR IN THE CLASSROOM

- Greater irritability or more emotional than usual Increased problems paying attention or concentrating

- Inappropriate or impulsive behavior during class
- increased problems paying attention or concentrating
  Increased problems remembering or learning new information
  Longer time needed to complete tasks or assignments
  Difficulty organizing tasks or shifting between tasks

  (lights, noise, etc.) Difficulties handling a stimulating school environment (lights, noise, etc.)
   Physical symptoms (headache, fatigue, nausea, dizziness)

#### EXAMPLES OF SCHOOL SUPPORTS

- Reduce assignments and horsework to get use a single and base grades on adjusted work.
   Provide earth arm to work on assignment by the provide earth arm to work on assignment by the provide earth arm to work on assignment.
   Provide written instructions, study guides, and/or help for classwork.
   Umit tests to one per day.
   Allow attudents to demonstrate understanding of a concept orally instead of in writing.
   Provide class notes and/or allow students to use a computer or tape recorder to record classroom information.
- Allow time to visit the school nurse for treatment of headaches or other symptoms.

- Provide rest breaks.
   Provide extra the top of mor class to class to avoid crowds.
   If students are bothered by light, allow sunglasses, blue light blocking glasses, or sitting in a less bright location (e.g., draw blinds, ait them away from windows).
   If students are bothered by noise, provide noise-reducing headphones and a quiet place to study, test, or spend lunch
- or recess.

  Do not substitute concentration activities for physical activity (e.g., do not assign reading instead of PE).
- Develop an emotional support plan (e.g., identify an adult with whom they can talk if feeling overwhelmed).
- Locate a quiet place students can go when feeling overwhelmed.
   Students may benefit from continued involvement in certain extracurricular activities, such as organizational or
- academic clubs, as approved by their health care provider.

  Arrange preferential seating, such as moving the student away from windows (e.g., bright light) or talkative peers, or

Provide structure and consistency; make sure all teachers are using the same strategies.

## **OKLAHOMA** State Department of Health

## RETURN TO LEARN PROTOCOL

Every student will experience a concussion differently. One student may spend an extended time in one return to learn phase, while another may not



A licensed health care provider should provide written clearance for a student to return to school after a concussion. A concussion management team should be assembled and begin to develop a plan for the student.



## Half-day attendance with accommodations

The concussion management team leader should meet with the student and their parents to review information from the health care provider (e.g., current symptoms and recommended accommodations), concussion management team member roles and responsibilities, and the initial concussion management plan.



### Full-day attendance with accommodations

Monitor the student for worsening or reemerging symptoms during class.
The concussion management team should be communicating on a regular basis to evaluate progress and collaborating to revise the concussion management plan as needed based on any changes in symptoms or symptom severity.



#### Full-day attendance without symptoms

When the student can participate in all classes and has been symptom free for at least 24 hours, they may begin the Return to Play Protocol for physical activities at school (e.g., gym, PE classes, athletics participation).



#### Full school and extracurricular involvement

For most students, accommodations for concussion recovery are temporary and informal. When recovery is prolonged, however, formal support services (e.g., an individualized education plan, a response to intervention protocol, or 504 plan) may be needed to support the student.

To learn more about supporting students returning to learn after a concussion, visit https://concussion.health.ok.gov

#### Contact us: concussion@health.ok.gov | 405.426.8440

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# **Return to Play**

## RETURN TO PLAY: BACK TO SPORTS AFTER A CONCUSSION



### Before you begin:

An athlete's progression through the Return to Play Protocol should be monitored by a designated return to play case manager such as a coach, athletic trainer, or school nurse.



Each step should take a minimum of 24 hours; it should take at least one week to proceed through the full Return to Play Protocol. This process can take several weeks or months, depending on the individual and the injury.



If concussion symptoms return at any step during the return to play process, the protocol must be stopped. The athlete may only resume return to play activities when they have been symptom-free for a minimum of 24 hours. Return to play progression must resume at the step before symptoms repemented.

Example: An athlete going through Return to Play Protocol has progressed to Step 5 (practice and contact) when concussion symptoms return. Return to play activities must be halted until the symptoms stop and remain absent for at least 24 hours. At that point, the Return to Play Protocol resumes; however, the athlete restarts at Step 4 (heavy non-contact activity), the step before concussion symptoms reemerged.

#### WHEN IN DOUBT, SIT THEM OUT

Athletes should not begin the Return to Play Protocol on the same day of the injury. A licensed health care provider must evaluate the athlete and provide written clearance for the athlete to return to activity. Continuing to play, or returning to play too soon, after a concussion increases the chances of sustaining another concussion. A repeat concussion that occurs while the brain is still healing from the first injury can be very serious and can affect an athlete for a lifetime. It can even be fatal.

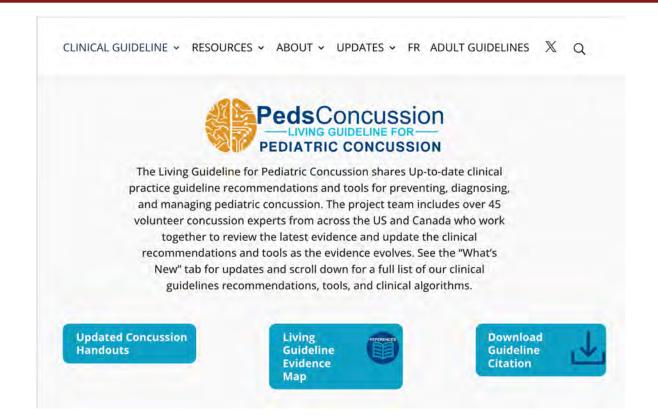


### **RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOL**



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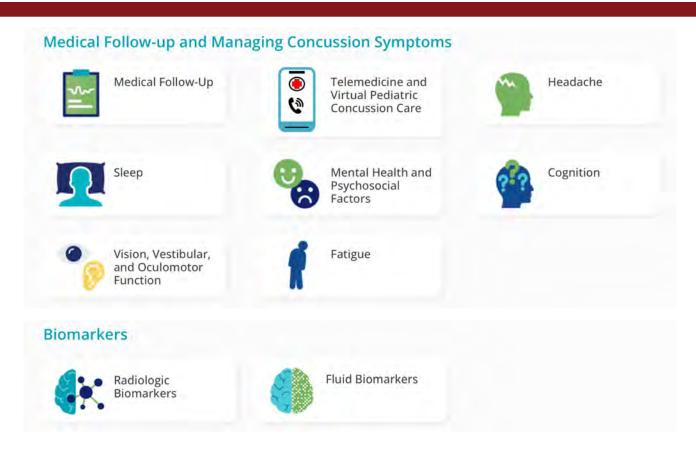
Prevention of Sport-Related Concussion

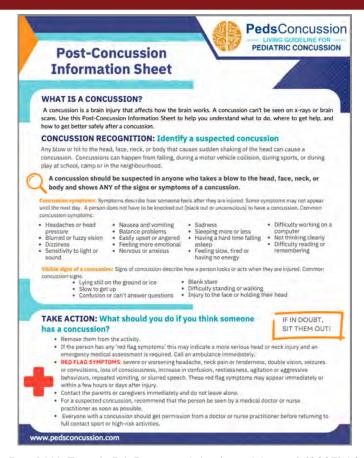


Medical Clearance for Full-Contact Sports or High-Risk Activity



Sport Concussion Considerations







# **Multiple Concussions**

- Varies by institution/provider
- Persistent post-concussive symptoms:
  - consider taking season off
- Two concussions in one season:
  - consider taking season off
- Persistent cognitive deficits:
  - formal neuropsych testing, consider return to play when recovered



# **Multiple Concussions**

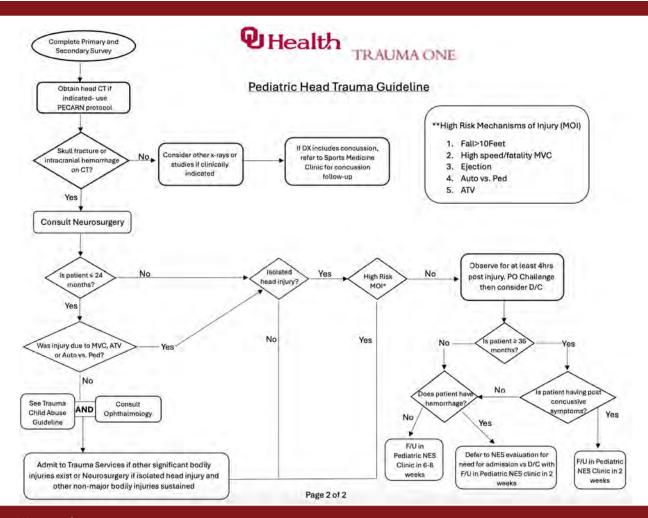
- 3 lifetime concussions
  - consider taking season off or retirement
- 4 concussions
  - strongly consider retirement

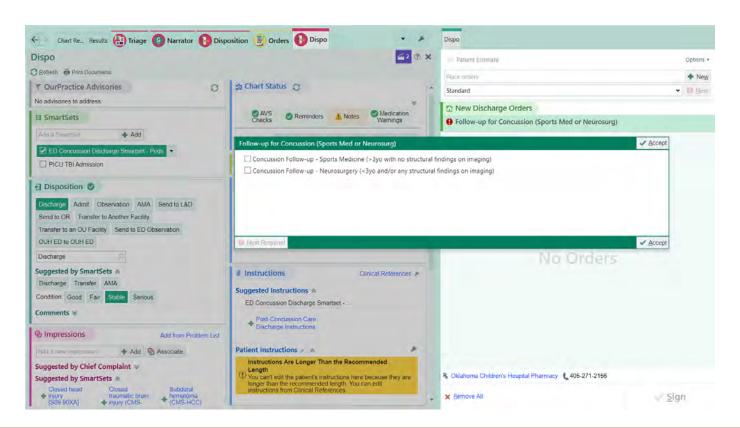


# Structural TBI (Skull Fracture/Blood in Head)

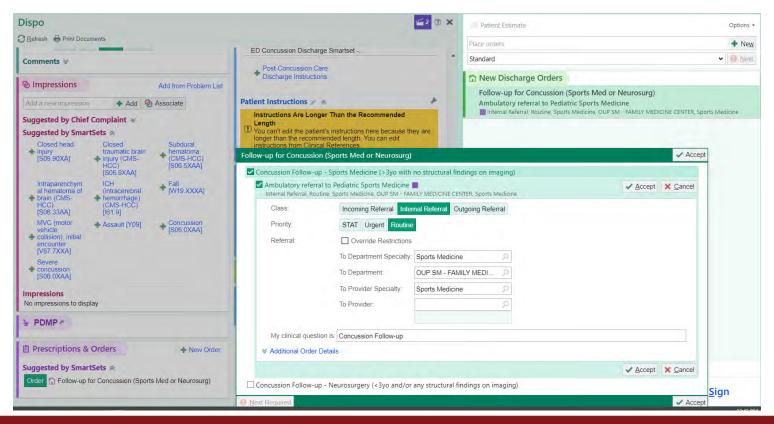
- Will be asked for clearance
- Controversial with no established guidelines:
  - Symptom free and negative follow up imaging (at 3–6 months)
  - No sports allowed for 1 year with follow up visit and scan at 1 year. Return to play pathway is considered.



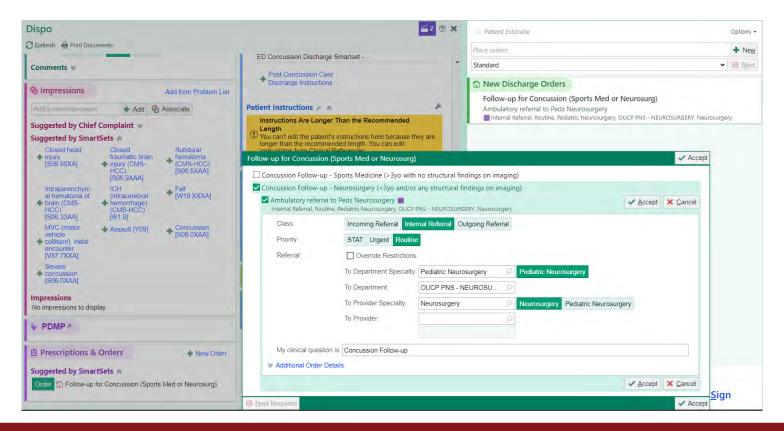




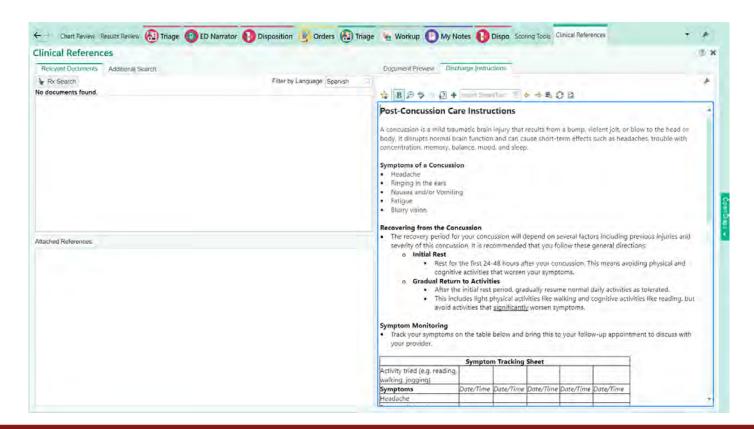




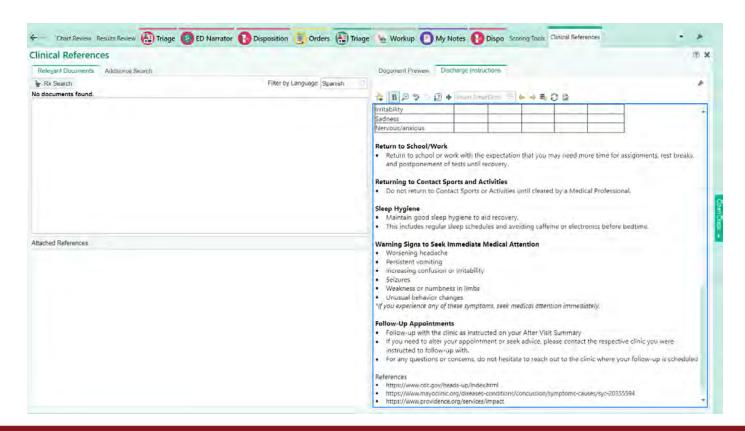














# **OU Sports Medicine Concussion Clinic**



Dr. James Barrett









Dr. Brian Coleman

Dr. Colbert Nelson

Dr. Michael McCoy



# **Multidisciplinary Care is Essential**

- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Neuropsychology
- Vestibular Therapy
- Neurology
- Sports Medicine
- Neurosurgery
- Psychiatry/psychology



Michelle Hostetler









# **QUESTIONS? Thank you!**

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