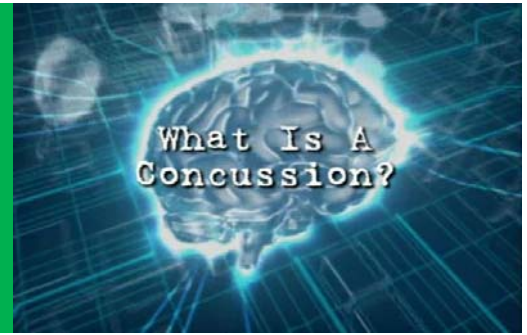


CONCUSSION GUIDELINS FOR TEACHERS



WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?

A concussion is a brain injury that cannot be seen on routine x-rays, CT scans, or MRIs. It affects the way a person may think and remember things for a short time, and can cause a variety of symptoms.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS AND SIGNS OF CONCUSSION.

A student does not need to be knocked out (lose consciousness) to have had a concussion.

THINKING PROBLEMS	ATHLETE'S COMPLANTS	OTHER PROBLEMS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not know time, date, place, period of game, opposing team, score of game General confusion Cannot remember things that happened before and after the injury Knocked out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Headache Dizziness Feels dazed Feels "dinged" or stunned; "having my bell rung" Sees stars, flashing lights Ringing in the ears Sleepiness Loss of vision Sees double or blurry Stomachache, stomach pain, nausea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor coordination or balance Blank stare/glassy eyed Vomiting Slurred speech Slow to answer questions or follow directions Easily distracted Poor concentration Strange or inappropriate emotions (ie. Laughing, crying, getting mad easily) Not playing as well

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU GET A STUDENT GETS A CONCUSSION?

WHAT CAUSES A CONCUSSION?

Any blow to the head, face or neck, or a blow to the body which causes a sudden jarring of the head may cause a concussion (ie. A ball to the head, being checked into the boards in hockey).

You will most often have students who have sustained a concussion outside of school, but it is important to know how to deal with a student whom you suspect has sustained a concussion while participating in a sport or activity at school. **IF YOU SUSPECT A CONCUSSION, THE STUDENT SHOULD STOP PLAYING THE SPORT OR ACTIVITY RIGHT AWAY.** He/she should not be left alone and should be seen by a doctor as soon as possible that day. If a student is knocked out for more than a minute, call an ambulance to take him/her to a hospital immediately. Do not move him/her or remove athletic equipment like a helmet; wait for paramedics to arrive.

Anyone with a concussion should not go back to play that day, even if he/she is feeling better. Problems caused by a head injury can get worse later that day or night. He/she should not return to activity until he/she has been seen by a doctor.



CONCUSSION GUIDELINES FOR TEACHERS

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE FOR A STUDENT TO GET BETTER?

The signs and symptoms of a concussion often last for 7—10 days but may last much longer. In some cases children may take many weeks or months to heal. Having had previous concussions may increase the chance that a person may take longer to heal.

HOW IS A CONCUSSION TREATED?

IT IS CLEAR THAT EXERTION, BOTH PHYSICAL AND MENTAL, WORSENS CONCUSSION SYMPTOMS AND MAY DELAY RECOVERY. THUS, THE MOST IMPORTANT TREATMENT FOR CONCUSSION IS REST.

Many students find that attending school aggravates their symptoms, and may have to stay home and rest. It is not possible to know when symptoms will improve, as each concussion is unique. Therefore, a specific return date to school may not initially be possible for the student, their parents, or doctor to provide. Once they feel better, they can try going back to school, initially part time (eg. Half days at first) and, if their symptoms do not return, full time. Remember that mental exertion can make symptoms worse, so the student's workload may need to be adjusted accordingly.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT A STUDENT DOES NOT GO BACK TO ACTIVITY IF HE/SHE HAS ANY CONCUSSION SYMPTOMS OR SIGNS.

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL?

Sometimes children who have a concussion may find it hard to concentrate in school and may get a worse headache or feel sick to their stomach if they are in school. Children should stay home from school if their symptoms get worse while they are in class. Once they feel better, they can try going back to school part time to start (eg. For half days initially) and if they are okay with that, then they can go back full time.

Return to sport and activity must follow a step wise approach:

Step 1—No activity, complete rest. Once back to normal and cleared by a doctor, go to step 2

Step 2—Light exercise such as walking or stationary cycling, for 10 -15 minutes.

Step 3—Sport specific aerobic activity (ie. Skating in hockey, running in cover), for 20—30 minutes. **NO CONTACT**

Step 4—"On field" practice such as ball drills, shooting drills, and other activities with **NO CONTACT** (ie. No checking, no heading the ball, etc.).

Step 5—"On field" practice with body contact, once cleared by a doctor.

Step 6—Game play.

WHEN CAN A STUDENT WITH A CONCUSSION RETURN TO SPORT?

It is very important that a student not play any sports, including PE class activities if he/she has any signs or symptoms of concussion. The student must rest until he/she is completely back to normal. When he/she has been back to normal and has been seen by a doctor, he/she can then go through the steps of increasing activity described above. When the student has progressed through these steps with no symptoms or problems, and has received clearance from a doctor, he/she may return to play. If you are unsure if a student should participate, remember...

WHEN IN DOUBT, SIT THEM OUT!

