

1. Define of How Injury Occurred

Examples:

- Head struck by object.
- Head strikes object.
- Acceleration/deceleration movements w/o direct external trauma to head.
- Foreign body penetrated the brain.
- Forces generated from an explosion.

2. Severity of Injury

Range from "mild" (brief change in mental status or consciousness) to "severe" (extended period of unconsciousness or amnesia after injury).

A. Mild

- LOC < 30 minutes (Loss of Consciousness)
- AOC or mental state lasting up to 24 hrs (Alternation of Consciousness)
- PTA up to 24 hrs (Post Traumatic Amnesia)
GCS (best available score during first 24 hrs) of 13-15; not a predictor of function or rehabilitative outcome.

B. Moderate

- LOC > 30 Minutes and < 24 hours
- AOC > 24 hours
- PTA > 1 and< 7 days
- GCS = 9-12

C. Severe

- LOC > 24 hours (Loss of Consciousness)
- AOC > 24 hours
- PTA > 7 days
- GCS = 3-8

Legend: Source DOD/VA Common Definition 2007

LOC – Loss of Consciousness

AOC – Alternation of Consciousness

PTA – Post Traumatic Amnesia

GCS – Glasgow Coma Scale

3. TBI Symptoms

Symptoms typically fall into one of three categories:

- A. Physical - Headache, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, blurred vision, sleep disturbances, weakness, paresis/plegia, sensory loss, spasticity, aphasia, dysphagia, dysarthria, apraxia, balance disorder, disorders of coordination or seizure disorder.
- B. Cognitive - Problems with attention, concentration, memory, speed of processing, new learning, planning, reasoning, judgment, executive control, self-awareness, language or abstract thinking.
- C. Behavioral/Emotional - Depression, anxiety, agitation, irritability, impulsivity or aggression.

4. Evaluation for Defense

The following should be obtained:

- Mechanism/Force of Injury
- ISO
- Prior Medical Records
- Prior mental Health/Psychological/Chemical Dependency Records
- Educational Records – including all testing ACT, SAT, Guidance, 504 Plans, etc.
- Employment Records
- Social Media Records
- Raw Data Testing Pre/Post Injury
- Witness Interviews for observations of behavior changes pre/post injury
- EMT/Ambulance/Police Records/interview/observations/Glasgow Scale
- Emergency Room Records
- Neuro psychological testing/RAW data
- Consults

IME Consideration:

- o Neurological
- o Neuropsychological
- o Vocational/Speech/Occupational

