

Head Injury

The severity of a head injury may range from "mild" (i.e., a brief change in mental status or consciousness) to "severe" (i.e., an extended period of unconsciousness or memory loss after the injury). Most head injuries that occur each year are mild, commonly called concussions.

At the present time there is no evidence of serious or pending danger from the patient's head injury. However, careful attention for the next 24-48 hours is advised.

- **The patient should be awakened every two hours for the next 24 hours.**

Please return to a doctor's office or to the Emergency Department at once if the following occur:

- Excessive drowsiness
- Persistent vomiting
- Increasingly severe headache
- Confusion as to time, place, and name
- Decreased coordination and slurred speech
- Unusual behavior
- Leakage of fluid from nose or ears