

Categories of TBI

Mild, moderate, or severe: has to do with the *initial* diagnostic findings at the time of the injury, based on length of TIME, state of CONSCIOUSNESS, and state of ALERTNESS

Does *not* refer to the extent of brain damage

Does *not* refer to the length of time it takes the brain to recover

A person with a *mild* TBI can have significant, permanent brain damage

A person with a *severe* TBI can have a full recovery with no deficits

Definitions

GCS – Glasgow Coma Scale, scored from 0-15, measures motor response, verbal response, and ability to open one's eyes

LOC – Loss of Consciousness – how *long* is the patient unconscious?

AOC – Alteration in consciousness – how *alert* and oriented, or confused and disoriented, is the patient?

PTA – Post-traumatic amnesia- problems with confusion or memory loss after the incident

Mild TBI

LOC= 0-30 minutes

GSC = 13-15

AOC < 24 hours

PTA < 24 hours

Imaging – negative

Moderate TBI

LOC >30 min, < 24 hrs

GCS score = 9-12

AOC > 24 hours

PTA > 24 hrs < 7 days

Imaging – neg or pos

Severe TBI

LOC > 24 hrs

GCS score = 3-8

AOC > 24 hrs

PTA > 7 days

Imaging - positive