Traumatic Brain Injury

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ED 243
How can we support students with traumatic brain injuries?

Devin - School Counselor

Shawna - High School English Teacher

Maggie - Administration
Meet Billy

- 15 years old

- Billy recently fell off his skateboard, was not wearing a helmet. He has been diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury.

- Has been attending physical therapy; he has been regaining strength in his major muscle groups. Billy is still having some problems functioning in the high school setting.

- His personality is different and he once excelled in your English classroom, but now he seems to be struggling.

- He is unable to concentrate for long periods and now becomes easily frustrated.
What is Traumatic Brain Injury? (TBI)

- Only disability category that can be obtained after birth.

- "Injury to the brain caused by an external physical force, resulting in total or partial functional disability of psychosocial impairment."

- Inclusion p. 10

- Can also be caused by blast waves, common in military personnel.
No two brains are the same, so everyone will be affected differently

Causes

- Accidents
  - Falls
- Sports Injuries
- Automobile accidents
- Abuse
- Explosions (Military)

Chart from CDC
### Types

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thinking/Remembering</th>
<th>Physical</th>
<th>Emotional/Mood</th>
<th>Sleep</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty thinking clearly</td>
<td>Headache</td>
<td>Irritability</td>
<td>Sleeping more than usual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeling slowed down</td>
<td>Nausea or vomiting</td>
<td>Sadness</td>
<td>Sleep less than usual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty concentrating</td>
<td>Sensitivity to noise or light Balance problems</td>
<td>More emotional</td>
<td>Trouble falling asleep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty remembering new information</td>
<td>Feeling tired, having no energy</td>
<td>Nervousness or anxiety</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mild**

**Example: Concussion**
Types

- **Severe**
  - Closed- injury to the brain caused by movement of the brain within the skull
  - Penetrating- injury to the brain caused by a foreign object entering the skull

- **Extended period of unconsciousness or amnesia**

- **Cognitive Function** (e.g., attention and memory)
- **Motor function** (e.g., extremity weakness, impaired coordination and balance)
- **Sensation** (e.g., hearing, vision, impaired perception and touch)
- **Emotion** (e.g., depression, anxiety, aggression, impulse control, personality changes)
Effects Video

- TBI Effects on each lobe
- 8:20
Support

- Behavioral
  - Positive Reinforcement
  - Nonverbal cueing
  - Regular verbal feedback
  - Eliminating external distractions
Support (cont.)

- Academic
  - Adequate rest time
  - Extra time
  - Assistive technology
  - Breaking down assignments
  - Limited academic load
  - Offering alternative assignments
  - Testing accommodation
  - Direct instruction
Support (cont.)

- Social
  - Ongoing counseling and guidance
  - Social skills groups
  - TBI support groups
Teaching Strategies

- Attention/ Concentration Problems
  - Reduce distractions in work area
  - Divide work
  - Ask the student to summarize information orally that has just been presented
  - Use cue words/ Non verbal cues
Teaching Strategies

- Memory Problems
  - Repeat/Summarize Information
  - Encourage the use of an assignment sheet or planner
  - Teach student to categorize or chunk information
  - Help student make connections to relevant prior knowledge
Teaching Strategies

- Organization Problems
  - Additional time for review
  - Checklists for complex tasks
  - Written schedule of daily routines
  - Outline based on class lecture
  - Color-coded materials for each class
Teaching Strategies

- Problems Following Directions
  - Provide instructions both written and orally
  - Have student repeat instructions
  - Underlining/highlighting significant parts of directions
  - Checking each step and providing immediate feedback
  - Slow down pace
Simulation

Physical

- Wear oven mitt and try to catch object

Thought

- Describe the sky without words like: blue, clouds, sun, weather.
Christian Bauerle’s Story

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQT52b8GhaM&feature=related

5:05


