



BRAIN INJURY TERMS: "WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?"

TRAUMATIC BRIAN INJURY (TBI): Damage to living brain tissue caused by an external, physical force. TBIs are usually characterized by a period of altered consciousness (amnesia or coma) that can be very brief or very long. The specific disabling condition(s) may deal with the skeletal, visual, auditory, and/or nervous systems. The condition might also be perceptive/cognitive, or mental/emotional in nature. TBIs do not include brain injuries that are caused by reduced blood supply, toxic substances, malignancy, disease-producing organisms, inherited disorders, birth trauma or degenerative processes.

CAUSES of TBI: Traumatic brain injuries can occur as a result of a motor vehicle crash, fall or act of violence such as a gunshot wound to the head. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of all traumatic brain injuries.

AMNESIA: Loss of memory about events that happened during a certain period of time.

COMA: A state of unconsciousness when the patient cannot be awakened or aroused, even by things like a loud noise or shaking.

CONCUSSION: The common result of a blow to the head causing the brain to strike the skull. This usually causes an altered mental state that can either be temporary or prolonged. There is no damage done to the brain, but can cause headaches, memory loss, and sleeping problems. ■

**Modified from the Brain Injury Glossary by
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HAVE YOU BEEN TO THE LRC LATELY?

The Learning Resource Center (LRC) is located in Room 508 on the 5th floor of Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan. It is open from 8:15am until 5pm, Monday through Friday, and it is wheelchair accessible.



Our highly trained library staff offers information services to patients and their families. The LRC is divided into three areas: the Medical Library, the Media Center, and the Patient Education Library. You can borrow books from the Patient Education Library. The Patient Education Library also has a collection of free pamphlets on disability issues, as well as directories for locating various agencies. Here you can find self-help resources, audio and videotapes, and a TV and VCR to use while your here. The LRC has four computers that can access the Internet. If you do not know how to use the Internet, training is available. If you have any questions, come in or give us a call at 313-745-9862. Hope to see you soon! ■

ARE YOU MOVING SOON?



Moving can be stressful and remembering to give your new address to everyone who needs it can be challenging. SEMTBIS is one of those organizations that needs your current address information. Without it, we can't send you updates, invitations, or even this newsletter. Please remember to give Carole Koviak, RN a call at **(313) 745-9737**. ■