

10 BRAIN INJURIES YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

At Cooper Hurley Injury Lawyers, we work with people who suffered head injuries in Hampton Roads traffic collisions and elsewhere in Virginia as well as northeastern North Carolina.

You may also have suffered a concussion on the sports field or in a fall. Call us today for a free consultation at (757) 241-8716.

1. Diffuse Axonal Injury

A diffuse axonal injury can be caused by shaking or strong rotation of the head, as with shaken baby syndrome, or by rotational forces, such as with a car accident.

2. Concussion/Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (mTBI)

A concussion can be caused by direct blows to the head, gunshot wounds, violent shaking of the head, or force from a whiplash-type injury. Both closed and open head injuries can produce a concussion. A concussion is the most common type of traumatic brain injury.

3. Contusion

A contusion is a bruise (bleeding) on the brain caused by a force (blow or jolt) to the head.

4. Coup-Contrecoup Injury

Coup-contrecoup injury describes contusions that are both at the site of the impact and on the complete opposite side of the brain. This occurs when the force impacting the head is not only great enough to cause a contusion at the site of impact, but is also able to move the brain and cause it to slam into the opposite side of the skull.

5. Penetrating Injury

Penetrating injury to the brain occurs from the impact of a bullet, knife, or other sharp object that forces hair, skin, bone, and fragments from the object into the brain.

6. Second Impact Syndrome

Second impact syndrome, also termed "recurrent traumatic brain injury," can occur when a person sustains a second traumatic brain injury before the symptoms of the first traumatic brain injury have healed. The second injury may occur from days to weeks following the first. Loss of consciousness is not required. The second impact is more likely to cause brain swelling and widespread damage.

7. Abusive Head Trauma (Shaken Baby Syndrome)

Abusive head trauma, also known as shaken baby syndrome, is a violent criminal act that causes traumatic brain injury. Abusive head trauma occurs when the perpetrator aggressively shakes a baby or young child. The forceful whiplash-like motion causes the brain to be injured.

8. Locked-in Syndrome

Locked-in syndrome is a rare neurological condition in which a person cannot physically move any part of their body aside from their eyes.

9. Open Head Injury

An open head injury, also known as a penetrating head injury, is a head injury in which the dura mater (the outer layer of the meninges) is breached. Penetrating injury can be caused by high-velocity projectiles or objects of lower velocity such as knives, or bone fragments from a skull fracture that are driven into the brain.

10. Closed Head Injury

A closed head injury is an injury to the brain caused by an outside force without any penetration of the skull. With a closed head injury, when the brain swells, it has no place to expand. This can cause an increase in intracranial pressure, which is the pressure within the skull.