

Facts About Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

- Domestic violence assaults can cause TBI as a result of being choked or hit in the head or face. Studies have estimated blows to the head or face occur in 50% to 90% of assaults.^{1,2}
- There may not be physical signs that a TBI has occurred; many mild injuries do not require a hospital stay, yet the effects of the injury can change someone's life forever.
- TBI can result in physical, cognitive and emotional impairments.

¹Jackson, H., Philp, E., Nutter, R., and Diller, L. (2002) Traumatic Brain Injury: A Hidden Consequence for Battered Women, *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*, 33(1), p. 39-45.

²Greenfield, L., and Rand, M., Violence by Intimates, NCJ-167237, US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, March, 1998.

Causes

- Being punched in the face or head
- Being hit in the head with an object
- Being pushed against the wall or other surface
- Being violently shaken
- Falling and hitting the head
- Being strangled/choked
- Being shot in the face or head

An individual who experiences multiple brain injuries may experience more problems and symptoms and/or take longer to recover. Also, once the brain is injured, it leaves the person at risk of a second, more serious injury.

Signs & Symptoms

Signs of TBI resulting from assault may show up immediately or may appear days or weeks after an attack. Symptoms include:

- Persistent headache
- Confusion
- Neck pain
- Slowed thinking, acting, speaking or reading
- Short term memory loss
- Trouble paying attention, concentrating, making decisions, solving problems
- Fatigue
- Loss of balance
- Blurred vision
- Ringing in the ears

Support Services

Individuals who have sustained a brain injury may work with a team of professionals to get the support they need. This team may include:

- Neurologists
- Neuropsychologists
- Therapists
- Counselors
- Psychiatrists
- Rehab Doctors (Physical Medicine)
- Case Managers/Social Workers
- Vocational Counselors

Programs such as clubhouses and support groups may be able to offer additional assistance.

For Assistance & Information

If you are the victim of domestic violence, contact:

Virginia Family Violence & Sexual Assault Hotline:
1-800-838-8238 (v/tty)

For more information about brain injury or services and resources, contact:

Brain Injury Association of Virginia
Toll Free Helpline:
1-800-444-6443

1506 Willow Lawn Drive, Suite 212
Richmond, VA 23230
Fax: 1-804-355-6381
E-mail: info@biav.net
Website: www.biav.net



Brain Injury Association of Virginia

Creating a better future through brain injury prevention, research, education, advocacy & support

Supported in part by HRSA Grant #H21MC06763-04-00 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) and state contract #09-251 administered by the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services. The contents are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of HHS. This is in the public domain. Please duplicate and distribute widely.

Domestic Violence & Traumatic Brain Injury

*This tip card provides information on one of the most unrecognized consequences of domestic violence - **traumatic brain injury (TBI)**.*