

Testing and Evaluation



ImPACT™ - Carolinas Medical Center has been named the only credentialed ImPACT™ healthcare facility in North and South Carolina. Our healthcare providers use the most recognized computer program in the world specifically designed for the management of sports-related concussions. It has been implemented locally by high schools, college and professional teams.

Neuropsychological Testing - Clinical neuropsychology is the study of brain-behavior relationships. Psychologists with specialized training in understanding patients with neurological, medical, developmental or psychiatric conditions help patients by formally assessing a patient's thinking skills, behavior and emotional functioning. Tests are used to assess a person's thinking skills or functional abilities.

Riddell Sideline Response System (SRS)® - The first head impact monitoring system, exclusively from Riddell®, that measures and monitors head impacts to football players in real time. Carolinas Concussion Network is the first in the nation to use this technology with the pediatric subjects.

Research

Carolinas Concussion Network has direct access to the most current research being conducted on traumatic brain injury and uses this knowledge daily when addressing brain injury issues with patients. Carolinas Concussion Network is proud to include a nationally respected research department as part of the services it offers to our community. Carolinas Rehabilitation is one of 14 sites in the United States awarded funding as a Traumatic Brain Injury Model System to study traumatic brain injury through the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research.



Carolinas Concussion Network is studying the biomechanics and effects of head impacts in interscholastic and club sports and is looking into better helmet manufacturing for youth football. CMC also has partnered with sports medicine faculty in the Department of Kinesiology at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte to investigate various clinical outcomes and biomechanical factors associated with sports concussions and youth football.

Education

To learn more about concussions and traumatic brain injury, Carolinas Concussion Network staff is available to provide educational talks, workshops and trainings to healthcare providers, teachers, parents, coaches and athletic trainers.

Contact Information:

Call 704-227-2237 for non-emergency situations, 24 hours a day.

Carolinas Concussion Network would like to acknowledge Kohl's Department Stores for partial funding of this program.

Carolinas Concussion Network



Carolinas Rehabilitation

Uncompromising Excellence. Commitment to Care.



Having a concussion is more than just a bump on the head!

A concussion is an injury to the brain caused by a blow or jolt to the head.

At Carolinas Medical Center, we are experienced in treating all types of brain injury from mild to the most severe. We work with community and school sports and recreation teams to provide healthcare and other sports related care. Many local sports teams including the Carolina Panthers, Lowe's Motor Speedway and the Charlotte Knights also trust us for their medical care.

The Carolinas Concussion Network offers expertise in the identification, diagnosis and management of concussions for all ages. We use a team of specialists from all different fields of medicine with expertise in brain injury to optimize recovery time and return to work or play.

What Is A Concussion?

A concussion is an injury to the brain caused by a blow or jolt to the head. Another term for concussion is mild traumatic brain injury. It can cause a feeling of being dazed, confused, disoriented and/or brief memory loss. The individual does not have to lose consciousness to experience a concussion. The person may also experience changes in physical behavior or thinking abilities. These changes can vary for each individual. Usually these symptoms disappear within minutes to months following the injury, but sometimes symptoms last longer. Below are some signs and symptoms which may indicate a concussion has occurred.

SIGNS

- Dazed or stunned
- Confusion
- Forgetfulness
- Unsure of game, score or opponent
- Has a vacant stare
- Answers questions slowly
- Moves clumsily
- Loses consciousness
- Behavior or personality changes
- Decline in school performance

SYMPTOMS

- Headache
- Nausea or vomiting
- Problems talking
- Blood or fluid draining from ears or nose
- Dizziness
- Double or blurred vision
- Sensitivity to noise or light
- Difficulty concentrating
- Memory problems
- Changes in sleep habits

Why Is It Important To Be Evaluated?

Most concussions do NOT involve loss of consciousness. You can sustain a concussion even if you do not hit your head. An indirect blow elsewhere on the body can transmit an "impulsive" force to the head and cause a concussion to the brain. Also, concussions typically do not appear in neuroimaging studies such as MRI or CAT scans. The Center for Disease Control estimates that of the 1.5 million traumatic brain injuries sustained by children and adults in the United States each year, at least 75 percent are concussions. Having one concussion increases your chances of having another one. Research shows that the effects of repeated concussions are cumulative and can lead to other health-related issues.

Evaluation by professionals with brain injury expertise is important to:

- Perform diagnostic evaluation
- Obtain on-site imaging if needed
- Determine treatment needs
- Monitor for ongoing consequences
- Address return to play decisions
- Answer questions about brain injury

Treatment:

Treatment includes a medical evaluation with the region's only comprehensive concussion program in the area including:

- Emergency Medicine Physicians
- Sports Medicine Physicians
- Brain Injury Rehabilitation Physicians
- Musculoskeletal Physicians
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech/Language Therapy
- Cognitive Education Specialists
- Neuropsychologists
- Social Work/Counseling
- Athletic Trainers

