

Recovery

- Full recovery is expected even if you've had more than one concussion during deployment.
- However, with each additional concussion healing may take a little more time.
- It's important to know that treatment is available for your post-deployment health problems, including those related to concussion.
- Most health problems resulting from concussion or deployment can be addressed by a primary care provider who is supported by a team of specialists.
- Speak with your provider about each of your health concerns.
- Understand that recovering from a concussion may take longer if you have other medical conditions such as depression, PTS, sleep problems, or are using alcohol or drugs.

The most important things *you* can do:

- Relax and give yourself time to heal
- Get plenty of sleep and rest
- Be honest with your provider
- Avoid further head injury
- Expect a full recovery

Additional Information:

Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center
www.dvbic.org



Developed by:
Battlemind Transition Office
&
Proponency Office for
Rehabilitation & Reintegration

Version 5.0
25 January 2010
Reviewed by SME Panels 5 and 10

Concussion / mTBI Information

For use >1 month
after injury or at Post
Deployment Health
Assessment

(Not For Acute Period)



What is a Concussion?

- Concussion is an injury from a hit, blow, or jolt to the head that briefly knocks you out (loss of consciousness) or makes you confused or “see stars” (change in consciousness).
- It can result in headaches, irritability, fatigue, balance difficulties, sleep disturbance, dizziness, ringing in the ears, blurred vision, concentration or memory difficulties, and other problems.

Have I Had a Concussion?

- Your assessment indicates that you may have had a concussion/mTBI.
- It is important to understand that “mTBI” - mild Traumatic Brain Injury - is just another way of saying “concussion.”
- We refer to your injury as a concussion because we want to make sure you realize that it’s different from the other more severe “traumatic brain injuries” (TBIs).



How Long Does it Last?

- Almost everyone recovers from concussion within hours to days.
- Sometimes Service members are concerned that concussions sustained during deployment will lead to lasting effects after return home, but in fact, concussions usually heal quickly.
- Occasionally, symptoms may persist longer than expected.
- The time it takes to heal depends on the individual, the nature of the injury, the number of concussions, and other conditions that may exist.

What Else is Important?

- Persistent symptoms post-deployment may result from physical injuries, other significant events, or conditions such as sleep deprivation and operational stress reactions.
- Conditions such as post-traumatic stress (PTS), depression, anxiety, and alcohol use can make it more difficult to fully recover.
- Talk to your provider about significant events you experienced in theater and any symptoms you have.
- Communicate accurately detailed information about all injury events; the sooner you do this the better.

What Will Help Your Recovery?

- Talk to your provider about the problems you’re experiencing
- Take only medications prescribed for you, take them as directed, and report any side effects
- Abstain from alcohol and drug use
- Limit your use of caffeine and “energy-enhancing” products
- Avoid contact sports that can lead to another concussion
- Avoid aggressive driving that can lead to more severe traumatic brain injuries
- Get plenty of sleep every day - at least 7-8 hours