# Head injuries

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## Head injury

Skull fractures

Brain lesion or damage

Scalp wounds

Injury to the spine in the neck

### Signs

History of a severe blow Increasing drowsiness Headache, unequal pupil size Confusion, dizziness Loss of balance, loss of memory Difficult speaking, difficult walking Vomiting, double vision Seizures Bleeding, leakage of blood of watery fluid from the ear or nose Loss of consciousness

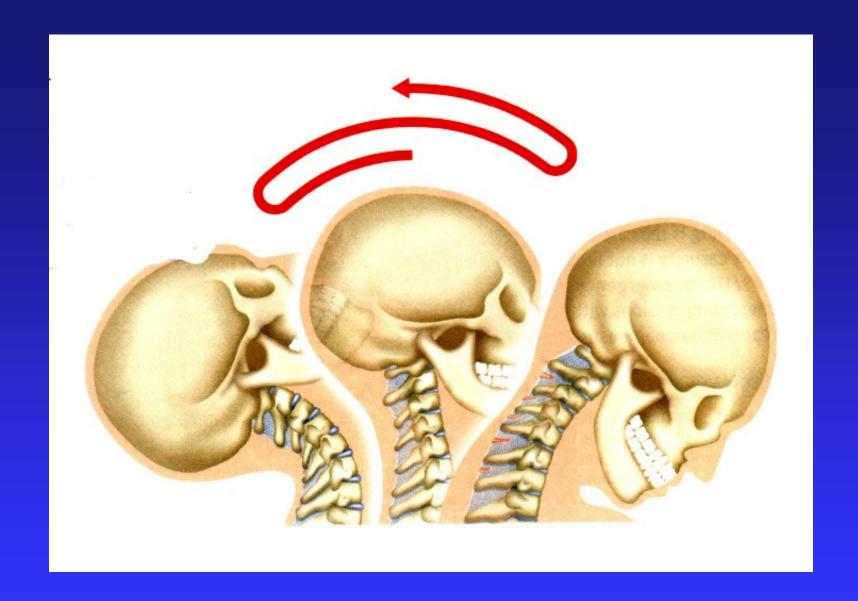
#### Assesment of level of consciousness

A Alert, respond to questions eyes are open

V Voice, respond to voice, obey commands

P Pain, respond to pain

U Unresponsive to any stimulus



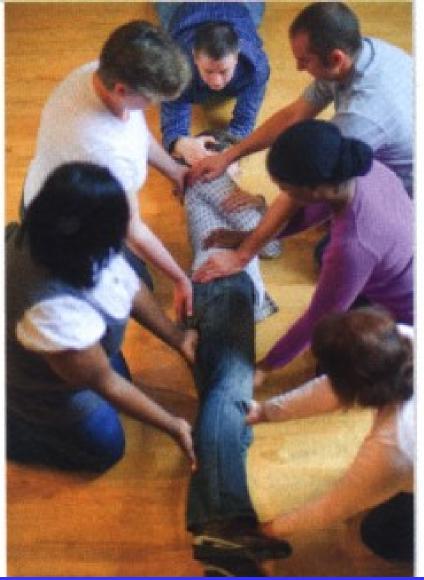
Whiplash injury











Log- roll technique

#### First aid:

Free airways
Cold compresses at the site
of injury
Monitor vital signs
CPR
Stabilisation of cervical spine
(Philadelphia collar)

Sterile dressing of the ear or nose



Philadelphia collar

#### **Brain lesion**

Concussion (commotio cerebri)
Contusion of the brain (contusio cerebri)
Epidural haematoma
Subdural haematoma
Subarachnoideal bleeding
Intracerebral bleeding
Intraventricular bleeding

## Concussion (commotio cerebri)

Temporary loss of consciousness Nausea, vomiting, retrograde amnesia Rapid pulse, flat breathing, pale

Functional lesion of neurons

## Management of concussion

Admission to the hospital Sedatives
Prevention of epilepsy (Sanepil)

## Postconcussion syndrom:

Headache, vertigo, fatique, desorientation sleep problem

## Contusion of the brain (contusio cerebri)

Structural damage of the brain Unconsciousness two hours or more Impaired motor function Impairment of sensation

## Epidural haematoma

Between the skull and hard tissue

Artery or vein

#### Symptoms:

- Short period of unconsciousness after head injury
- Free interval (minutes or hours)- minimal problems
- Headache, nausea, vomiting
- Coma, seizures
- Unequal pupils- mydriasis on the site of bleeding

#### First aid

Rescue position Free airways

Management

Neurosurgry, craniotomy, stop bleeding Removal of haematoma

#### Subdural haematoma

Symptoms:
Unconsciousness immediately
No free interval
Seizures, motor collision