



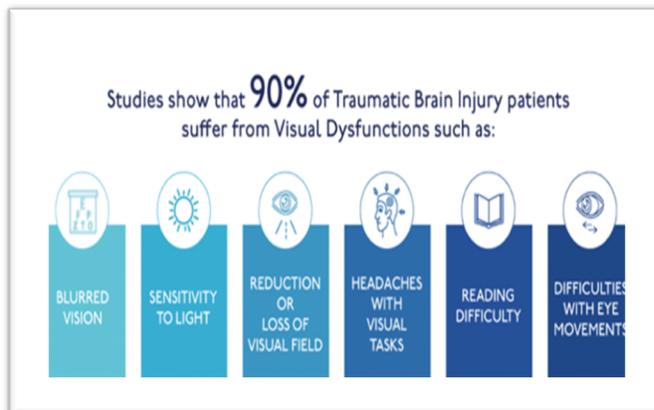
Brain Injuries and Vision

Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) or **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)** are terms used to describe damage to the brain caused by force to the head. Examples are a motor vehicle accident, a fall, or contact sports. It can be the result of a medical condition such as a stroke, tumor, aneurism, meningitis and cerebral palsy, or other neurological defects.

A brain injury can affect a person in many ways extending from physical limitations to changes in perception and cognition. It can heavily impact a person's ability to function in their daily lives. Impairments can affect speech, hearing, balance & visual processing.

Visual Links to the brain

Following a brain injury, there is often an interruption between the eyes and the brain.



- Over 10 million TBI's occur annually across the globe
- 57 million people have been hospitalized with a TBI in their life time
- Estimated 1.7 million people sustain a TBI each year
- 75% of TBI's are a result from a **concussion** or other forms of **mild traumatic brain injury (MTBI)**

Individuals of all ages who have experienced some sort of neurological insult or injury and who are experiencing visual symptoms can benefit from a vision assessment from a Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation Optometrist, an eye care professional who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment/rehabilitation of neurological conditions adversely affecting the visual system.

When a person has an ABI, often one type of rehabilitation is not enough to address needs. An interdisciplinary, integrated team approach can play a vital role in the rehabilitation of patients with concussions, stroke or other neurological deficits. In addition to optometrists, rehabilitation team members may include nurses, physical and occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, physical medicine and rehab physicians, neurologists, neuropsychologists, audiologists, ophthalmologists, and others.

References

ASSOCIATION, N.O.R.A. (2018, December). *ABOUT BRAIN INJURIES & VISION*. Retrieved from www.noravisionrehab.org/patients-caregivers/about-brain-injuries-vision.