

Nonsurvivable

- [Survival of a patient with an acute traumatic subdural hematoma and high-grade liver injury with associated IVC injury without surgical intervention](#)
- [Diagnosis of in-hospital mortality using admission CT perfusion in severe traumatic brain injury patients \(ACT-TBI study\)](#)
- [Evaluation of the Glasgow Coma Scale-Pupils score for predicting inpatient mortality among patients with traumatic subdural hematoma at United States trauma centers](#)
- [Brodifacoum contamination of synthetic cannabinoid causing unexplained coagulopathy in multiple trauma: A case report](#)
- [Between "Nonsurvivable" and "Brain Death"](#)
- [Self-inflicted penetrating brain injuries with preserved neurological function: a case series](#)
- [A Reappraisal of the Pathophysiology of Cushing Ulcer: A Narrative Review](#)
- [Pediatric craniocerebral firearm injuries: literature review, best practices in medical and surgical management, and case report](#)

Nonsurvivable and [brain death](#) are both concepts related to [irreversible](#) conditions in which an individual cannot sustain [life](#). However, there are some key differences between the two:

Definition

Nonsurvivable: Nonsurvivable refers to a medical condition or injury from which a person cannot recover or survive despite all available medical interventions. It implies that the individual's condition is so severe that any attempt to save their life would be futile. **Brain Death:** Brain death is a specific legal and medical definition of death. It is the irreversible loss of all brain functions, including the brainstem. Brain death occurs when there is no measurable brain activity, and it is considered equivalent to the cessation of life. Prognosis:

Nonsurvivable: Nonsurvivable conditions or injuries typically have a very poor prognosis. They involve severe damage to vital organs or body systems, rendering the person unable to survive. **Brain Death:** Brain death is an irreversible condition, and there is no chance of recovery. Once brain death is declared, the individual is considered legally and clinically deceased, even though their heart may still be beating with the help of life support measures. Medical Interventions:

Nonsurvivable: In nonsurvivable conditions, medical interventions are unlikely to be effective in saving the person's life. Despite efforts to provide treatment or support, the person's condition is so severe that recovery is not possible. **Brain Death:** In the case of brain death, medical interventions are not aimed at restoring brain function but rather at supporting other vital functions, such as circulation and respiration, temporarily to facilitate organ donation or to accommodate the family's wishes. Legal Status:

Nonsurvivable: Nonsurvivable conditions do not have a specific legal status, as they are primarily medical determinations based on the severity of the condition and the absence of effective treatment options. **Brain Death:** Brain death has a legal status in many countries. It is recognized as the legal definition of death, enabling the withdrawal of life support and allowing for organ donation. It's important to note that the criteria and legal definitions of brain death may vary in different jurisdictions, and it is essential to consult specific laws and regulations in a particular region to understand the exact implications and procedures associated with brain death ¹⁾.

¹⁾

Salwi S. Between “Nonsurvivable” and “Brain Death”. JAMA Neurol. 2023 May 30. doi: 10.1001/jamaneurol.2023.1423. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37252709.

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