

Traumatic brain injury complications

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1. $\approx$ 75% will exhibit an [traumatic intracranial hematoma](#)

a) may be present on initial evaluation and can then worsen

b) may develop in a delayed fashion

delayed [epidural hematoma](#) (EDH)

delayed [subdural hematoma](#) (SDH)

delayed traumatic [contusions](#). see [Traumatic intracerebral hemorrhage](#)

Posttraumatic diffuse cerebral edema

Tension pneumocephalus

Hyponatremia

Hypoxia: etiologies include pneumothorax, MI, CHF...

Hepatic encephalopathy

Hypoglycemia: including insulin reaction

Adrenal insufficiency

Drug or alcohol withdrawal

[Dural sinus thrombosis](#)

[Carotid artery dissection](#) (or rarely, vertebral)

c) **SAH**: due to rupture of [aneurysm](#) (spontaneous or posttraumatic) or [carotid cavernous fistula](#) (CCF)

Cerebral embolism: including [fat embolism syndrome](#)

[Hypotension](#) (shock).

Alzheimer's disease

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is associated with increased [dementia](#) risk.

[Alzheimer's disease](#).

Brain abscess

[Traumatic brain abscess](#).

Intracranial hypertension

see [Intracranial hypertension after traumatic brain injury](#)

Brain edema

[Brain edema](#) can result from a combination of several pathological mechanisms associated with primary and secondary injury patterns in [traumatic brain injury](#) (TBI).

As pressure within the [skull](#) increases, brain tissue displacement can lead to [brain herniation](#), resulting in disability or death.

see [Anticoagulation in traumatic brain injury](#).

Harris et al, suggest a link between head injury and Parkinson's disease and indicates further scrutiny of workplace incurred head injuries is warranted ¹⁾.

Cerebral contusion

Cortical [cerebral contusions](#) are one of the most common [computed tomography](#) (CT) findings in [head injury](#) ^{2) 3)}.

Cerebral Venous Sinus Thrombosis

[Cerebral Venous Sinus Thrombosis](#).

Cerebrospinal fluid fistula

see [Traumatic cerebrospinal fluid fistula](#).

Chronic traumatic encephalopathy

[Chronic traumatic encephalopathy](#).

Deep-Vein Thrombosis

[Deep-Vein Thrombosis](#).

Delayed deterioration

[Delayed deterioration](#).

Coagulopathy

The occurrence of coagulopathy in patients with traumatic brain injury (TBI) is related to severe complications. The authors performed the first systematic review to investigate whether biomarkers can predict the occurrence of hypocoagulopathy or progressive hemorrhagic injury in patients with TBI. Methods: The authors included studies that performed a receiver operating characteristics analysis for the biomarker and provided a clear value along with the respective sensitivity and specificity. Additionally, they attempted to classify each biomarker, taking into account its physiological role. Results: Twelve studies were included. All biomarkers were protein molecules, except in one study that examined the prognostic role of glucose. Copeptin had the highest sensitivity, and S100A12 had the highest specificity in predicting coagulopathy, while IL-33 had the highest sensitivity and GALECTIN-3 had the highest specificity in predicting progressive hemorrhagic injury. Conclusion: The study of the role of biomarkers in predicting the occurrence of coagulopathy in patients with TBI remains in its infancy ⁴⁾.

Disseminated intravascular coagulation

[Disseminated intravascular coagulation](#).

Empty sella syndrome

[Empty sella syndrome](#).

Growing skull fracture

[Growing skull fracture.](#)

Nerve palsy

[Abducens nerve palsy.](#)

[Oculomotor nerve palsy.](#)

Olfactory loss

Olfactory loss due to [head trauma](#) is a frequent finding. It is attributed to the tearing or severing of the olfactory fibers at the [cribriform plate](#). In contrast, posttraumatic gustatory loss is observed and reported rarely and the underlying mechanism is less understood. Rahban et al. present a case of a concomitant post-traumatic anosmia and [ageusia](#). Imaging showed a considerable frontobasal brain damage and it is speculated that the gustatory impairment is due to a central injury of the secondary taste cortex. Based on this observation, Rahban et al. we believe that this clinical presentation might be much more frequent than previously reported ⁵⁾.

[Autonomic impairment](#) after acute [traumatic brain injury](#) has been associated independently with both increased [morbidity](#) and [mortality](#). Links between autonomic impairment and [increased intracranial pressure](#) or impaired cerebral autoregulation have been described as well. However, relationships between autonomic impairment, intracranial pressure, impaired cerebral autoregulation, and outcome remain poorly explored.

Osteomyelitis of the skull

[Skull Osteomyelitis.](#)

Pituitary dysfunction

[Diabetes insipidus.](#)

see [Posttraumatic hypopituitarism](#)

hypogonadotropic hypogonadism

Pneumonia

[Pneumonia in traumatic brain injury](#)

Postconcussive syndrome

[Postconcussive syndrome](#)

Posttraumatic epilepsy

see [Posttraumatic epilepsy](#).

Posttraumatic hydrocephalus

[Posttraumatic hydrocephalus](#).

Posttraumatic meningitis

[Posttraumatic meningitis](#).

Posttraumatic stress disorder

[Posttraumatic stress disorder](#).

Pulmonary embolism

[Pulmonary embolism](#).

Secondary Parkinsonism

[Secondary parkinsonism](#)

SIADH

[SIADH](#).

Subdural empyema

[Subdural empyema](#).

Traumatic intracranial hemorrhage

[Traumatic intracranial hemorrhage](#).

Post-traumatic hearing loss

[Post-traumatic hearing loss](#)

Spasticity

Findings advocate for a person-centered approach in spasticity management, emphasizing the integration of sensory impairment strategies into rehabilitation to enhance functional outcomes and quality of life. Such an approach aims to improve functional outcomes and enhance the quality of life for individuals experiencing spasticity post-stroke or TBI. Future directions include targeted interventions to alleviate these sensations, support better rehabilitation results and improve patient experiences ⁶⁾.

References

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