

My head hurts, now it is all blurry

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INTRODUCTION:

Cerebral concussion (CC) also commonly referred as mild traumatic brain injury (TBI) occurred when a blow to the head causing rapid movement of the brain within the skull. Convergence insufficiency (CI) is increasingly being acknowledged following a mild TBI.¹ One of the most common symptoms of CI is blurry or double vision

CASE DESCRIPTION:

A 7-year-old boy presented 10 hours to ER after a fall outside of classroom due to a slippery floor. The boy claimed hit the back of his head and had a loss of consciousness. He managed to regain full consciousness after he was brought into the classroom. Upon arrival, he was hemodynamically stable. On examination, there was no significant physical and neurological finding, however he persistently claims of having blurring of vision.

He was later observed for 24hours following the onset of the incident and his case was brought to ophthalmology team attention with no significant findings noted. On the other hand, patient CT brain also reported no significant findings. Fortunately, the symptoms completely resolved by itself within the 24hours period of observation and he was subsequently discharged.

Following week of follow up, the symptoms had not recurred and he was able to live life as usual.

DISCUSSION:

In the context of CC sequelae, the pathogenesis of CI is not well understood. CI may produce problems with reading, such as diplopia and asthenopia., skipping words and becoming more easily fatigued or having disinterest in reading.² Treating CI in the context of CC requires a multidisciplinary approach. In the emergency department setting, monitoring of symptoms plays a pivotal role.

CONCLUSION:

The prognosis for CI in CC cases varies depending on the severity of both the brain injury and the visual deficit. CI can significantly impact educational and occupational performance especially in young patients, hence early identification is crucial.

KEYWORD:

Cerebral Concussion (CC), Convergence Insufficiency (CI), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

References:

- 1) Uptodate.com, Sequelae of mild traumatic brain injury – May 7 2024
- 2) AAO.org Vision and concussion: Symptoms, Signs, Evaluation and Treatment, Christina L. Master, August 2022