



MIDDLEBORO PEDIATRICS

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HEAD INJURY INSTRUCTIONS

If your child has sustained a head injury, he should be seen right away at either our office or the Emergency Room if any of the following have occurred:

- * Any loss of consciousness (knocked out) even if briefly.
- * If your child does not remember the accident.
- * If your child does not look right to you.

Even if the above conditions have not occurred, there still is a chance that problems could still occur. Any person receiving a blow to the head may have an injury to the brain or small blood vessels that is not always evident immediately following the accident. Therefore, it is important to observe your child closely during the next 24 to 48 hours. Telephone our office if any of the following signs of trouble develop.

EXCESSIVE DROWSINESS: It is normal for your child to be sleepy after a head injury. Contrary to what you may have heard, it is safe to allow your child to sleep, but he or she should be easily aroused by methods you would ordinarily employ to awaken your child from sleep.

PERSISTENT VOMITING: In many cases children will vomit 1 or 2 times following a head injury. Notify us if the child vomits more than a few times or if it begins again after stopping.

One pupil appears larger than the other. Be sure that light is falling equally on both eyes.

If your child cannot use either arm or leg as well as previously or if he or she is unsteady while walking.

If your child's speech becomes slurred or if he or she is apparently unable to talk.

If severe headaches occur, particularly if it increases and is not relieved by Tylenol.

If your child "sees double" or if you detect any failure of the eyes to move together appropriately.

If twitching or convulsions occur.

Drainage of blood or fluid from the nose or ear.

Changes in respirations - difficulty breathing or bluish tinge to the skin.

On the night following the head injury, or during any nap, it is advisable to awaken your child every 3-4 hours to look for the warning signs listed above.