

Broad Recommendations / Summary

This contains Clinical Guidance for management of severe traumatic brain injury in the Northern Trauma Network.

The RVI and JCUH Neurosurgical Units fully endorse the current National Guidance for the management for Head Injuries as published by NICE.

The current NICE Head Injury Recommendations (NG232, May 2023) are available here: [Recommendations | Head injury: assessment and early management | Guidance | NICE](#)

Early accurate identification of any brain injury and the prevention of further brain injury from the time of any trauma is a major focus of care. Relatively simple measures which can be instigated early may reduce secondary brain injury. Avoidance of hypoxia and hypotension is fundamental.

Primary brain injury

Reduced by prevention programmes that modify the environment, behaviour and any injury force delivered to the brain in a particular incident.

Secondary brain injury

Prevention of secondary brain injury is the main aim of Major Trauma care. Secondary brain injury may be reduced by optimisation of basic physiological parameters.

Contact for Advice

Referrals to neurosurgery should be made via the Refer a patient system. For time critical advice the Neurosurgical Registrar On Call can be contacted via the MTC switchboards. A refer a patient submission will still be required for governance.

RVI - 0191 233 6161

JCUH - 01642 850850

Referral Pathways to Specialist Rehabilitation Outpatient Services for Mild TBI (mTBI)

For Gateshead, Sunderland and South Tyneside – Community Acquired Brain Injury Service (CABIS) – **01915665650** CabisTeam@cntw.nhs.uk - all ages, all grades of TBI, no specific vestibular assessment- refer to FASS service at Sunderland Royal hospital **0191 565 6256**

For Northumbria – Northumberland Head Injury Service (NHIS) – 01670394150 nhisadmin@cntw.nhs.uk – all patients all ages with all grades of TBI, including for vestibular and BPPV assessment

For North Cumbria – North Cumbria Integrated Care Acquired Brain Injury Service – Kendal **01539 718118** Carlisle **01228602155**

For Teeside, South Durham and N Yorkshire - South Tees Head Injury Clinic – therapy and medical assessment mild to moderate TBI 3-6 months post-injury proactive pickup from JCUH, onward referral to specialist community teams **01642850850**

For Newcastle and North Tyneside – (if neuro-imaging abnormality present and ongoing symptoms) Regional Disability Team- RDT team Walkergate Park **01912875000**

For Vestibular and BPPV assessments for patients in areas without a specialist Brain injury team:-

Falls and Syncope Services (FASS) for BPPV and vestibular rehabilitation - FASS services at Newcastle, North Tyneside, Sunderland, Durham, (also consider referral if multiple Falls are cause of injury)

ENT services in local area

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| RELATED INFORMATION (links to/list of supporting guidance) | Recommendations Head injury: assessment and early management Guidance NICE |