

Children and youths with consequences after concussion

In Denmark a concussion is also called commotion cerebri. There is not one unambiguous definition of concussion, and in the research literature there is rarely distinguished between a concussion and a mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI). On the contrary both terms are often used about one and the same, which can give rise to conceptual confusion, when the research literature must be disseminated. There is still debate about, whether a concussion and a mTBI are two different types of injuries, or if a concussion is a less complicated type of mTBI. In this theme the term concussion is used, since it is this terminology, which at current moment is used in Denmark.

The majority of children and adolescents with concussion recover relatively fast from a few days up to four weeks. However, for a group of children on approx. 10-36 percent the symptoms persist, which potentially may affect the child's learning, schooling, socializing, quality of life and finally the child's mental well-being. When the child/youth experiences more persistent problems, an effort from specialists, who know something about concussion, is required in order to help children and their families.

In Denmark we have very limited knowledge about children and youths with long-term consequences after concussion, which is why the purpose with this theme is to get insight into the target group within thematises such as physical and cognitive repercussions, social and psychological consequences as well as the group of the youngest children (toddlers).

The presented knowledge is based on a comprehensive search in international databases in late summer 2018. With the theme The National Board of Social Services with to communicate knowledge about the complexity, which the field contains.