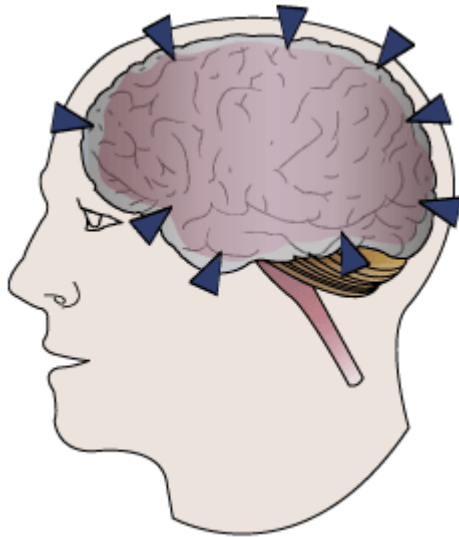


Diffuse Axonal Injury

Diffuse axonal injury (DAI) can also occur. This means that larger areas are injured when the axons (tails of nerves that carry messages in the brain) are stretched or torn.



When injuries are diffuse, many different types of symptoms can exist.

The recovery process varies from person to person. It may take 12 to 18 months and be steady in nature or stair-stepped. The length and amount of recovery depends on many factors. Doctors may talk about the person's level of consciousness (how awake and alert a person is) and discuss certain assessments, such as the Glasgow Coma Scale, Coma Recovery Scale and/or the Rancho Los Amigos Scale, when addressing the recovery process.

Recovery begins to happen when the swelling, bleeding and/or infection in the brain start to heal. Certain parts of the brain heal while other parts may remain injured. Sometimes, the brain creates new connections to take over for areas that are not working. It is like learning a new way to do something. The amount of recovery and the length of time it takes will be different depending on the person and the exact nature of the injury.