

Terms Related to Brain Injury

Agnosia- failure to recognize familiar objects

Agraphia- inability to express thoughts in writing.

Alexia- inability to read

Aneurysm- a balloon like deformity in the wall of a blood vessel.

Anomia- inability to recall names of objects

Anosmia- loss of sense of smell

Anterograde Amnesia- inability to remember on going events

Aphasia (receptive)- loss of ability to understand language

Aphasia (expressive) – loss of ability to formulate language.

Apraxia – inability to carry out purposeful movements

Asterognosia- inability to recognize objects by touch.

Ataxia- difficulty with muscle coordination.

ADLs- activities of daily living

CT Scan- Computed tomography (CT) an imaging method that uses x-rays to create cross-sectional pictures of the body

Clonus- rhythmic jerks following quick strength of a muscle

Cognition – process of knowing or perceiving.

Confabulation- Verbalizations with no basis in reality.

Contracture- Decreased range of motion due to tissues shortening.

Convergence- moments of eyes inward to focus on closer objects.

Cortical Blindness- Loss of vision due to visual cortex lesion.

DSM-IV standard classification of mental disorders used by mental health professionals

Diplopia- seeing two images of a single objects- double vision.

Dysarthria- Difficulty in speaking due to muscle weakness.

Dysmetria- inability to stop a moment at the desired point.

Dysphagia- swallowing disorder.

Echolalic- imitation of sounds or words without comprehension.

Hemiplegia- paralysis of one side of the body.

Hemiparesis- weakness of one side of the body.

ICD-9 Codes -Diagnostic codes that can be used to satisfy insurance record-keeping and reimbursement.

Kinesthesia- sensor awareness of body parts as they move.

Lability- drastic changes in emotion without apparent reason.

MRI- (or magnetic resonance imaging) scan is a radiology technique that uses magnetism, radio waves, and a computer to produce images of body structures

Neuropsychological Testing- testing a range of cognitive abilities and examining patterns of performance in different cognitive areas, neuropsychologists can make inferences about underlying brain function

Nystagmus- involuntary movements of the eye balls.

Perseveration- repeating a word phrase instantly or redundantly

Proprioception- sensory awareness of the position of body parts.

Shunt- device to divert excess flow away from the brain.

Spasticity- involuntary increase in muscle tone causing resistance.

Vestibular System- mechanism within the ear that detects head movements.

Visual Field Defect- not seeing objects in specific viewing regions.

Vertigo- The term vertigo refers to the sensation of spinning or whirling that occurs as a result of a disturbance in balance (equilibrium).

Types of Brain Injury

Penetrating Brain Injury; a tearing of the brain from, a skull fracture, gun shot wounds causing the rupture of a large blood vessel causing bleeding into the brain subarachnoid space. Penetrating brain injury also allow bacteria to enter the brain and can result in functions such as encephalitis and meningitis.

Contusions- a visible bruising of the brain due to traumatic or blood leaking from the blood vessels.

Hematoma- a brain damage resulting from leaking blood, collecting in a confined area of the brain or skull. A hematoma can be subdural epidural or intracerebral.

Concussion- a mild blow that can cause shearing of brain cells at the level undetected by CT scan or MRI.

Anoxia/hypoxia- a brain cell death resulting from brain cells receiving no oxygen (anoxia) or not enough oxygen (hypoxia).

Diffuse axonal injury (DAI)- a shearing of the cell connections due to rapid acceleration- deceleration of the brain during trauma. Result of global damage.

Coup-Countercoup Injuries- at least two injuries sites from one blow causes by the brain bouncing back and forth against the skull.