

Key Features of mTBI Assessment in an Emergency Department or Doctor's Office

(a) A Medical history encompassing a review of:

- Current symptoms and health concerns
- Setting and mechanism of injury
- Severity/duration of altered consciousness and immediate symptoms
- Presence of co-occurring injuries
- Pre-existing medical and mental health conditions
- Potentially contributing psychosocial factors

(b) An examination including an assessment of:

- Mental status and cognition
- Physical status
- Cranial nerves
- Extremity tone, strength, and reflexes
- Gait and balance

(c) An assessment of the patient's clinical status, including whether there has been improvement or deterioration since the time of injury. This may require additional information from others, including eyewitnesses to the injury.

(d) Determination of the need for urgent neuroimaging to exclude more severe brain injury (see Figure 1.1) such as a structural abnormality or hemorrhage.

Adapted from the NSW Ministry of Health. Closed Head Injury in Adults – Initial Management (PD2012_013).