

Assessment tool may help predict risk of persistent postconcussion symptoms among children

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A clinical risk score developed among children presenting to an emergency department with a concussion was significantly better than physician judgment in predicting future persistent postconcussion symptoms, according to a study appearing in the March 8 issue of *JAMA*.

Rates of [concussion](#) have doubled during the last decade, with an estimated 750,000 pediatric acute concussion visits to emergency departments (EDs) occurring annually in the United States. Although many children experience symptom resolution within 2 weeks, approximately 33 percent experience ongoing [symptoms](#), and those that persist beyond 28 days are referred to as persistent postconcussion symptoms (PPCS), which can have serious [adverse effects](#), resulting in school absenteeism, impaired [academic performance](#), depressed mood and lower quality of life. Validated and pragmatic tools to identify children at high risk of developing PPCS do not exist.

Roger Zemek, M.D., of Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, University of Ottawa, Canada and colleagues conducted a study to derive and validate a clinical risk score to stratify PPCS risk occurring after acute concussion in youth using readily available clinical features. The study included children and adolescents (age 5-

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