

Risk for affective, behavioral disorders increased in children after mTBI

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The risk for a new affective or behavioral disorder is increased in children up to four years after sustaining mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI), according to a study published online Jan. 25 in *Pediatrics*.

Richard L. Delmonico, Ph.D., from Kaiser Permanente Vallejo Medical Center in California, and colleagues conducted a cohort study of mTBI

cases (17 years of age and younger; diagnosed from 2000 to 2014) and matched controls within an integrated health care system. The analyses included 18,917 cases and 37,834 controls, randomly selected and matched for age, sex, race/ethnicity, and date of medical visit.

The researchers found that across the first three years after injury, adjusted [risks](#) for affective disorders were significantly higher for the mTBI group, especially during the second year (34% increase in risk). At years 2 and 4, the adjusted risks for [behavioral disorders](#) were significant, with up to a 37% increase in risk. The risk for postinjury affective and behavioral disorders was highest among 10- to 13-year-old patients.

"Sustaining mTBI significantly increased the risk of having a new affective or behavioral disorder up to four years after injury," the authors write. "Initial and ongoing screening for affective and behavior disorders after mTBI in [children](#) and adolescents can identify persistent conditions that may pose barriers to recovery."

More information: Richard L. Delmonico et al, Mild Traumatic Brain Injuries and Risk for Affective and Behavioral Disorders, *Pediatrics* (2024). [DOI: 10.1542/peds.2023-062340](https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2023-062340)

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