

Accident & Emergency
Department



Patient Information

Head Injury

Head Injury

When a patient sustains head injury that appears to be mild, he or she may be discharged after observation and found to be free of serious signs of damage. A full and rapid recovery may be expected. However, very rarely, complications may follow at any time over the next few days.

The brain is housed in a rigid case the skull and cannot tolerate any increase in pressure. If this occurs due to bleeding or swelling, pressure. If this occurs due to bleeding or swelling, pressure is exerted on the base of the brain which contains the vital centers controlling functions of breathing and heart action. The problem may occur gradually and

certain warning signs will develop that indicate pressure will have to be relieved.

Someone in the household should keep an eye on the patient over the next 24 hours and seek immediate medical help if the following signs should occur- unconsciousness or undue drowsiness; confused irrational or delirious behaviour; persistent headache; bleeding or discharge from the ear or nose; repeated vomiting; fits or spasms of the limbs or face and blurred or double vision. Children should be allowed to go to sleep but should be woken every 4 hours to see if they are rousable and conscious. Avoid alcohol, paracetamol can be taken for headaches, but avoid sedative. Icepacks can be used over the swollen area. Get rest.