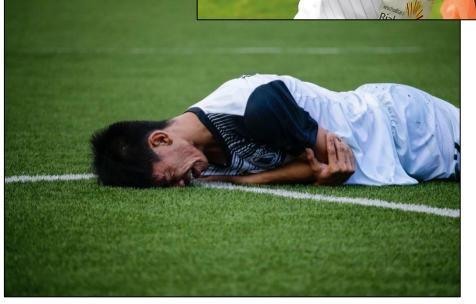




EVIDENCE-BASED CONCUSSION CARE





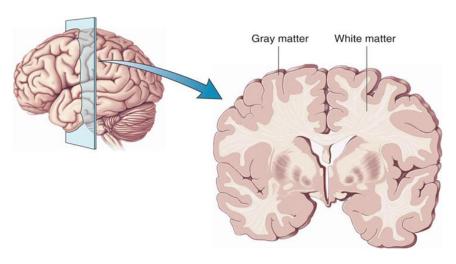


WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?

Definition

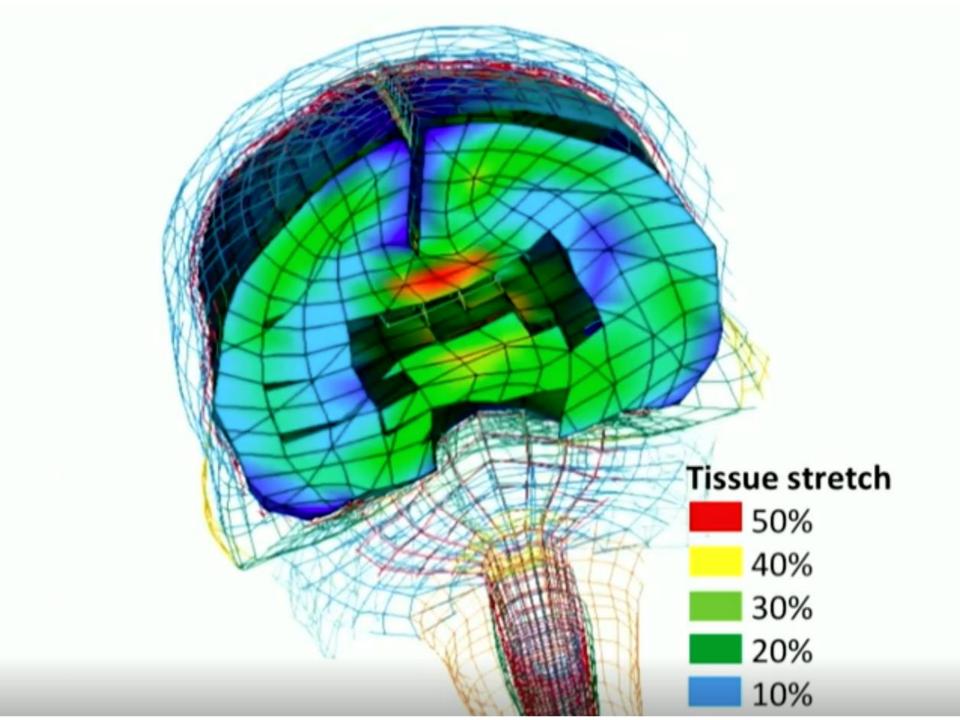
A concussion is a traumatic brain injury induced by the mechanical stretching and shearing of the neurons in the brain as a result of a physical blow to the head/body

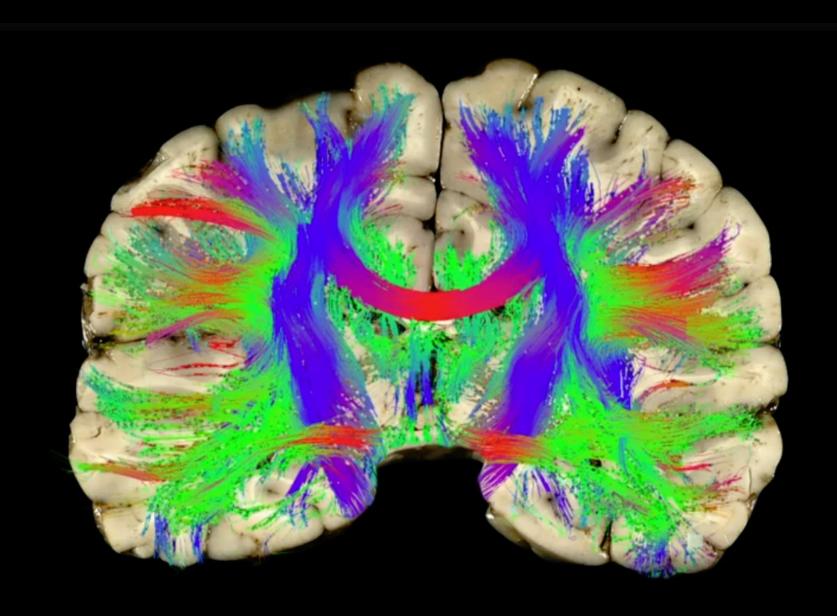
Concussion = mild Traumatic Brain Injury (mTBI)





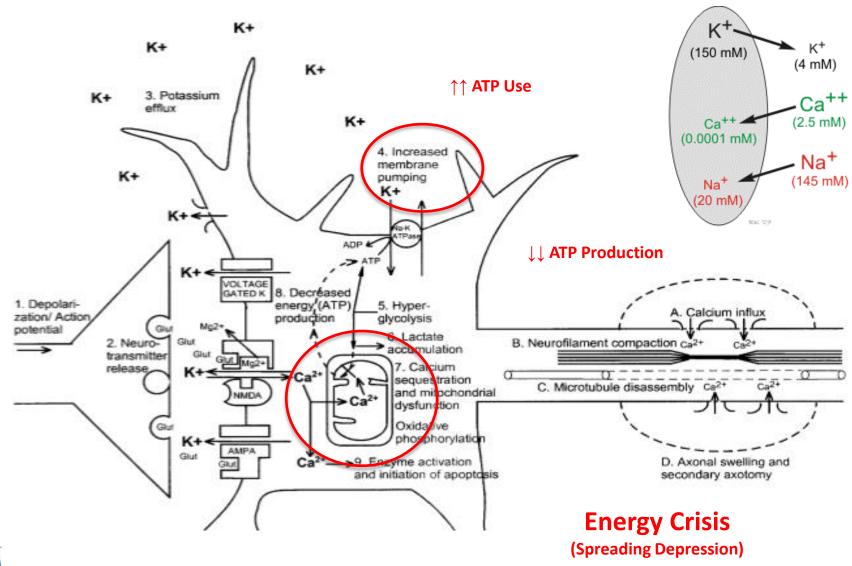






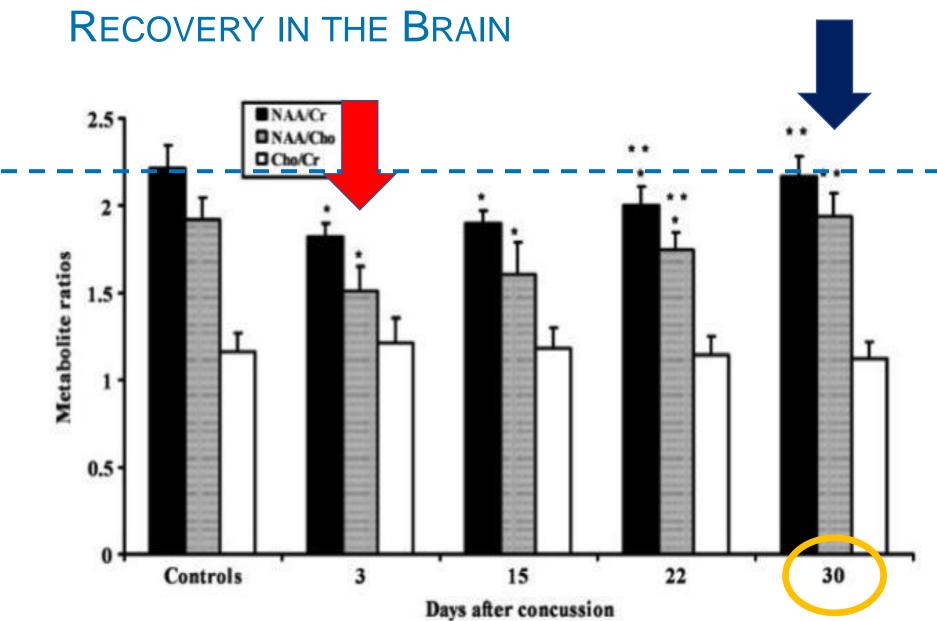


Spreading Depression, Energy Crisis



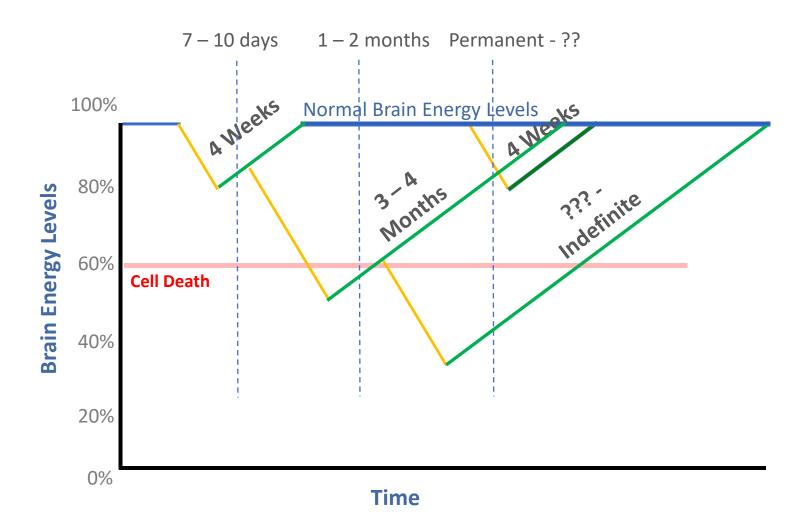








RETURNING TO SPORT TOO SOON







FACTS, MYTHS & MISCONCEPTIONS

No loss of consciousness 90% of the time

"I feel fine, let me keep playing"

Undetectable by conventional scans

Facts & Myths

"Just a concussion, no big deal"

Diagnosis is best accompanied by a group of tests

"I have rested and feel fine now, honest!"

Baseline testing best predicts when it is safe to return to play

Girls don't play hard enough to get a concussion



NOT JUST A CONCUSSION..?

Persistent headaches

Reduced blood flow to the brain

Memory & Concentration impairments

Visual disturbances

Vestibular & Hearing impairments

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Dizziness

Whiplash & Neck pain

Anxiety & Depression

Parkinson's & Alzheimer's Disease





SO WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

At the scene

- Pull the player out if there is a suspected concussion
- Do not ignore red flags

After the concussion

- <u>Seek assessment</u> with a <u>concussion-trained</u> doctor or physiotherapist
- Allow players to recover before returning to play
- Be <u>extra conservative</u> & generous with recovery
- Thorough rehabilitation for concussion is crucial
- Baseline testing

Beyond the concussion

Do not ignore chronic/persistent symptoms after a concussion





OVERNIGHT CARE

- <u>Don't</u> give any medication
 - May mask the signs of a worsening condition
 - Increased risk for bleeding
 - May cause side-effects that mimic concussion-like symptoms
 - No research evidence to suggest medications help with recovery
- <u>Don't</u> allow to sleep for at least 3 hours after the injury
 - To monitor for signs of deterioration
 - If they worsen, take them to the hospital
- <u>Do</u> be sure to check in on them every 1-2 hours throughout the first night
 - No need to try and wake them unless you are concerned (i.e., trouble breathing)







RED FLAGS

Visit the **Emergency Department** if you have any of the following or if you are unsure

- 1. Vomiting
- 2. Seizures
- 3. Slurring of speech
- 4. Very unsteady on feet
- 5. Severe or worsening headache
- 6. Drowsiness or can't be awakened
- 7. Weakness or numbness in arms or legs
- 8. Unusual behavior, very confused, very irritable
- 9. Decreasing level of consciousness > 2 hours after injury
- 10. Fluid leaking from ears, bruising behind ears, 2 black eyes
- 11. Inability to remember more than 30 minutes before the injury

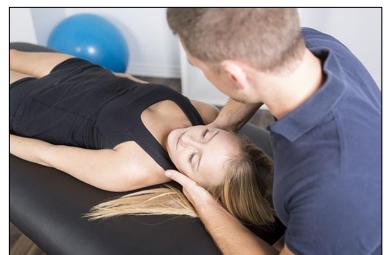




HOW WE CAN HELP

- Post-concussion assessment
- Baseline testing
- Staged return to play testing and management
- Vision rehab
- Vestibular dysfunction
- Headaches and dizziness
- Neck related pains and disorders
- Exercise and manual therapy









COACHES AND TRAINERS

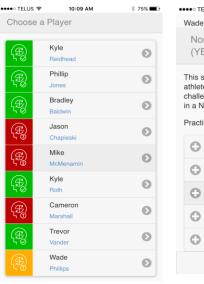
Online Coach/Trainer
Concussion Sideline
Course

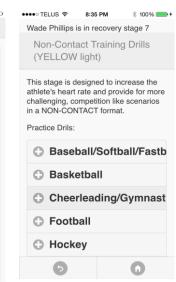
Concussion Tracker Smartphone Application

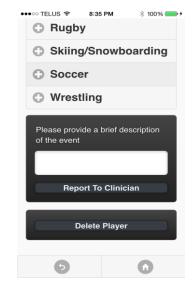




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EVIDENCE-BASED CONCUSSION CARE

For more information:

The Physio Space

(02) 4861 1223

http://www.thephysiospace.com.au/

Complete Concussion Management

https://completeconcussions.com/

Concussion in Sport Australia

https://www.concussioninsport.gov.au/











