Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) in the Primary Care Setting

Laura Gano, MPH
Objectives

• Define TBI
• Understand public health efforts to reduce incidence
• Value primary care physician role in prevention
An occurrence of injury to the head that is documented in a medical record, with one or more of the following:

- observed or self-reported decreased level of consciousness
- amnesia
- skull fracture
- objective neurological or neuropsychological abnormality
- diagnosed intracranial lesion
TBI 101

• Age
  • 0 – 4
  • 15 – 19
  • 65+
• Race
  • African American
• Sex
  • Male
• Mild or moderate/severe

[Pie chart showing:
  - Falls: 45.0%
  - MVA: 14.3%
  - Assaults: 10.7%
  - Blunt trauma: 15.5%
  - Other/unknown: 19.0%]
TBI Prevention: Public Health

• Surveillance
• Automobile safety
• Seatbelts, car seats
• Helmet use
• Violence prevention
• Environmental safety
TBI Prevention: Physician Role

- Patient-specific communication
- Monitoring medications
- Secondary prevention
Study: Family Medicine Physician Knowledge of/Experience with TBI

• Mixed methods study design
• Convenience sample
• Knowledge of TBI sequelae
• Clinical experience
• Prevention efforts
Study Findings

• Less confidence in treating patients for non-neurological sequelae
• 98% treated concussion within past year
• Prevention efforts aimed at pediatric population
Putting It All Together

- Incorporate prevention strategies in clinical practice
- Effective prevention strategies informed by public health data and practices
Questions?
References