



Lignes directrices canadiennes sur les commotions cérébrales dans le sport

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Les opinions exprimées dans la présente ne représentent pas nécessairement l'opinion de l'Agence de la santé publique du Canada.

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Annexes: Documents et Outils

Les documents et outils suivants sont incluts afin de soutenir la mise en œuvre de ces lignes directrices. Leur utilisation et distribution sont laissées à la discrétion du lecteur.

Fiche éducative transmise avant le début de la saison

QU'EST-CE QU'UNE COMMOTION ?

Une commotion est une blessure au cerveau qui ne peut être détectée par des rayons X, un tomogramme ou une IRM. Elle affecte la façon dont un athlète pense et peut causer divers symptômes.

QUELLES SONT LES CAUSES D'UNE COMMOTION ?

Tout choc porté à la tête, au visage, à la nuque ou sur une autre partie du corps qui cause une soudaine secousse de la tête peut entraîner une commotion cérébrale. Exemples : mise en échec au hockey ou choc à la tête sur le sol de la salle de gymnastique.

QUAND DEVRAIT-ON SOUPÇONNER UNE COMMOTION CÉRÉBRALE ?

On devrait soupçonner la présence d'une commotion cérébrale chez tout athlète victime d'un impact significatif à la tête, au visage, à la nuque ou au corps et qui démontre N'IMPORTE LEQUEL des signes visibles d'une commotion. On devrait également soupçonner la présence d'une commotion cérébrale si un joueur indique qu'il souffre de N'IMPORTE LEQUEL des symptômes à l'un de ses pairs, parents, enseignants, thérapeutes ou entraîneurs ou si quelqu'un remarque qu'un athlète démontre n'importe lequel des signes visibles indiquant une commotion cérébrale. Certains athlètes présenteront immédiatement des symptômes, alors que d'autres les présenteront plus tard (en général 24 à 48 heures après la blessure).

QUELS SONT LES SYMPTÔMES D'UNE COMMOTION ?

Il n'est pas nécessaire qu'une personne soit violemment frappée (perte de conscience) pour subir une commotion cérébrale. Les symptômes courants de commotion cérébrale sont les suivants :

- ▶ Maux de tête ou pression sur la tête
- ▶ Étourdissements
- ▶ Nausées ou vomissements
- ▶ Vision floue ou trouble
- ▶ Sensibilité à la lumière ou au bruit
- ▶ Problèmes d'équilibre
- ▶ Sensation de fatigue ou d'apathie
- ▶ Pensée confuse
- ▶ Sensation de ralenti
- ▶ Contrariété ou énervement faciles
- ▶ Tristesse
- ▶ Nervosité ou anxiété
- ▶ Émotivité accrue
- ▶ Sommeil plus long ou plus court
- ▶ Difficulté à s'endormir
- ▶ Difficulté à travailler sur ordinateur
- ▶ Difficulté à lire
- ▶ Difficulté d'apprentissage

QUELS SONT LES SIGNES D'UNE COMMOTION ?

Les signes d'une commotion pourraient être les suivants :

- ▶ Position immobile sur la surface de jeu
- ▶ Lenteur à se relever après avoir reçu un coup direct ou non à la tête
- ▶ Désorientation, confusion ou incapacité à bien répondre aux questions
- ▶ Regard vide
- ▶ Problème d'équilibre, démarche difficile, incoordination motrice, trébuchement, lenteur de déplacement
- ▶ Blessure au visage après un traumatisme à la tête
- ▶ Se tenir la tête

QUE FAIRE SI JE SOUPÇONNE UNE COMMOTION CÉRÉBRALE ?

Si on pense qu'un athlète a subi une commotion en pratiquant un sport, il doit immédiatement être retiré du jeu. Aucun athlète soupçonné d'avoir une commotion en pratiquant un sport ne doit être autorisé à reprendre la même activité.

Il est important que TOUS les athlètes ayant une possible commotion cérébrale rencontrent un médecin ou un infirmier praticien afin de subir un examen médical dès que possible. Il est également important que TOUS les athlètes ayant une possible commotion cérébrale reçoivent une autorisation médicale écrite d'un médecin ou d'un infirmier praticien avant de reprendre des activités sportives.

QUAND UN ATHLÈTE PEUT-IL RETOURNER À L'ÉCOLE ET REPRENDRE SES ACTIVITÉS SPORTIVES ?

Il est important que tous les athlètes chez qui une commotion cérébrale a été diagnostiquée suivent les étapes d'un programme de retour à l'école et de reprise d'activités sportives. Ce programme comporte les stratégies suivantes de retour à l'école et de reprise d'activités sportives. Il est important que les étudiants-athlètes mineurs et adultes reprennent des activités scolaires à temps plein avant d'entreprendre les étapes 5 et 6 de la Stratégie de retour au sport.

Stratégie de retour à l'école

Étape	Objectif	Activité	Objectif de chaque étape
1	Activités quotidiennes à la maison qui ne causent pas de symptômes à l'étudiant-athlète	Activités fait habituellement pendant la journée tant qu'elles ne causent pas de symptômes (ex. : lecture, envoyer des messages-texte, ordinateur/ télévision). Commencer par 5-15 minutes et augmenter graduellement.	Reprise graduelle des activités habituelles.
2	Activités scolaires	Devoirs, lecture ou autres activités cognitives en dehors de la salle de classe.	Augmenter la tolérance aux activités cognitives.
3	Reprise des études à temps partiel	Introduction graduelle du travail scolaire. Devra peut-être commencer par une journée scolaire partielle ou en faisant plus de pauses pendant la journée.	Augmentation des activités scolaires.
4	Reprise des études à plein temps	Progresser de manière graduelle.	Retour complet aux activités scolaires sans restrictions et rattrapage des travaux scolaires.

Stratégie de retour au sport

Étape	Objectif	Activité	Objectif de chaque étape
1	Activité ne causant pas de symptômes	Activités quotidiennes qui ne créent pas de symptômes.	Réintroduction graduelle d'activités liées au travail/à l'école.
2	Activité aérobique peu exigeante	Marche à pied ou bicyclette stationnaire, rythme lent ou moyen. Aucun exercice de résistance.	Augmenter le rythme cardiaque.
3	Exercices spécifique à un sport	Exercices de course ou de patinage. Aucune activité posant un risque d'impact à la tête.	Ajouter des mouvements supplémentaires.
4	Exercices d'entraînement n'impliquant pas de contact	Exercices d'entraînement plus difficiles, ex. : lancement du ballon. Peut commencer un entraînement d'activités de résistance progressif.	Augmenter les activités sportives, de coordination et les activités cognitives.
5	Entraînement avec contacts sans restrictions	Après avoir obtenu l'autorisation d'un médecin.	Rétablir la confiance et évaluation de compétences fonctionnelles de l'athlète par les entraîneurs.
6	Retour au sport	Pratique normale du sport.	

Source : McCrory et coll. (2017). Énoncé de consensus sur les commotions cérébrales dans le sport – 5^e conférence internationale sur les commotions cérébrales dans le sport, Berlin, octobre 2016. *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, 51(11), 838-847.

QUELLE EST LA DURÉE DE RÉTABLISSEMENT DE L'ATHLÈTE ?

La plupart des athlètes ayant eu une commotion cérébrales se rétabliront complètement en une à deux semaines, tandis que la plupart des jeunes athlètes seront rétablis après une période allant d'une à quatre semaines. Environ 15 à 30 % des patients présenteront des symptômes persistants (plus de 2 semaines chez des adultes, plus de 4 semaines chez des jeunes) et devront subir un examen médical et un suivi médical approfondis.

COMMENT ÉVITER LES COMMOTIONS CÉRÉBRALES ET LEURS CONSÉQUENCES ?

La prévention, l'identification et la gestion des commotions cérébrales exigent que l'athlète suive les règles de pratique de son sport, respecte ses adversaires, évite tout contact avec la tête et signale la possibilité d'une commotion.

POUR OBTENIR DE PLUS AMPLES RENSEIGNEMENTS SUR LES COMMOTIONS CÉRÉBRALES, VISITEZ :

Parachute Canada: www.parachute.ca/commotion-cerebrale

SIGNATURES (FACULTATIF): Les signatures suivantes attestent que l'athlète et l'un de ses parents, ou son tuteur légal ont examiné les renseignements au dessus relatifs aux commotions cérébrales.

Nom d'athlète en lettres moulées

Signature d'athlète

Date

Nom du parent en lettres moulées

Signature du parent

Date

Lettre confirmant le diagnostic médical

Date : _____

Nom d'athlète : _____

Madame, Monsieur,

Les étudiants-athlètes ayant une possible commotion cérébrale devraient être suivis conformément aux *Lignes directrices canadiennes sur les commotions cérébrales dans le sport*. Par conséquent, j'ai personnellement rempli un examen médical pour ce patient.

Résultats d'examen médical

- Aucune commotion cérébrale n'a été décelée chez ce patient. Il peut donc retourner à l'école et reprendre entièrement ses activités scolaires, professionnelles et sportives sans restriction.
- Aucune commotion cérébrale n'a été décelée chez ce patient, mais l'évaluation a conduit au diagnostic et aux recommandations suivantes :

- Ce patient a subi une commotion cérébrale.

La gestion des commotions cérébrales a pour objectif de permettre un rétablissement complet du patient en assurant un retour à l'école et une reprise des activités sportives de façon sécuritaire et progressive. On a recommandé au patient d'éviter tout sport ou toute activité récréative et organisée qui pourrait éventuellement provoquer une autre commotion cérébrale ou une blessure à la tête. À compter du _____ (date), j'autorise le patient à participer à des activités scolaires et à des activités physiques peu risquées en fonction de la tolérance et seulement à un degré qui n'aggrave ni n'engendre de symptômes de commotion cérébrale. Le patient mentionné ci-dessus ne devrait pas reprendre d'activités ou de jeux de contact complet tant que l'entraîneur n'a pas reçu la lettre d'autorisation médicale fournie par un médecin ou infirmier praticien conformément aux Lignes directrices canadiennes sur les commotions cérébrales dans le sport.

Autres commentaires :

Nous vous remercions d'avance pour votre compréhension.

Cordialement,

Signature/lettres moulées _____ Médecin/Infirmier praticien. (Encercler la désignation qui convient)*

** En régions rurales ou nordiques, la Lettre confirmant le diagnostic médical peut être remplie par un infirmier ou une infirmière avec l'avis préalable d'un médecin ou d'un infirmier praticien. Les formulaires remplis par d'autres professionnels de la santé agréés ne devraient pas être autrement acceptés.*

Nous recommandons que ce document soit fourni au athlète sans frais.

Stratégie de retour à l'école

La Stratégie de retour à l'école présentée ci-après doit être utilisée pour permettre aux étudiants-athlètes, aux parents et aux enseignants de s'associer afin que l'élève reprenne progressivement les activités scolaires. En fonction de la gravité et du type de symptômes, les étudiants-athlètes franchiront les étapes suivantes à un rythme différent. Si l'élève présente de nouveaux symptômes ou si ses symptômes s'aggravent lors d'une étape, il doit revenir à l'étape précédente.

Étape	Objectif	Activité	Objectif de chaque étape
1	Activités quotidiennes à la maison qui ne causent pas de symptômes à l'étudiant-athlète	Activités fait habituellement pendant la journée tant qu'elles ne causent pas de symptômes (ex. : lecture, envoyer des messages-texte, ordinateur/télévision). Commencer par 5-15 minutes et augmenter graduellement.	Reprise graduelle des activités habituelles.
2	Activités scolaires	Devoirs, lecture ou autres activités cognitives en dehors de la salle de classe.	Augmenter la tolérance aux activités cognitives.
3	Reprise des études à temps partiel	Introduction graduelle du travail scolaire. Devra peut-être commencer par une journée scolaire partielle ou en faisant plus de pauses pendant la journée.	Augmentation des activités scolaires.
4	Reprise des études à plein temps	Progresser de manière graduelle.	Retour complet aux activités scolaires sans restrictions et rattrapage des travaux scolaires.

Stratégie de retour au sport spécifique à un sport

La Stratégie de retour au sport présentée ci-après doit être utilisée pour permettre aux athlètes, aux entraîneurs et aux professionnels de la santé de s'associer afin que l'athlète reprenne progressivement les activités sportives. Une stratégie orientée vers le sport devrait être élaborée en personnalisant les activités et permettre à l'élève de reprendre progressivement ses activités sportives.

On recommande une période de 24 à 48 heures de repos avant d'appliquer la Stratégie de retour au sport. Si l'athlète présente de nouveaux symptômes ou si ses symptômes s'aggravent lors d'une étape, il doit revenir à l'étape précédente. Il est important que les étudiants-athlètes mineurs et adultes reprennent des activités scolaires à temps plein avant d'entreprendre les étapes 5 et 6 de la Stratégie de retour au sport. Il est également important que tous les athlètes fournissent à leur entraîneur une Lettre d'autorisation médicale avant de reprendre des activités sportives de contact complet.

Étape	Objectif	Activité	Objectif de chaque étape
1	Activité ne causant pas de symptômes	Activités quotidiennes qui ne créent pas de symptômes.	Réintroduction graduelle d'activités liées au travail/à l'école.
2	Activité aérobique peu exigeante	Marche à pied ou bicyclette stationnaire, rythme lent ou moyen. Aucun exercice de résistance.	Augmenter le rythme cardiaque.
3	Exercices spécifique à un sport	Exercices de course ou de patinage. Aucune activité posant un risque d'impact à la tête.	Ajouter des mouvements supplémentaires.
4	Exercices d'entraînement n'impliquant pas de contact	Exercices d'entraînement plus difficiles, ex. : lancement du ballon. Peut commencer un entraînement d'activités de résistance progressif.	Augmenter les activités sportives, de coordination et les activités cognitives.
5	Entraînement avec contacts sans restrictions	Après avoir obtenu l'autorisation d'un médecin.	Rétablir la confiance et évaluation de compétences fonctionnelles de l'athlète par les entraîneurs.
6	Retour au sport	Pratique normale du sport.	

Source : McCrory et coll. (2017). Énoncé de consensus sur les commotions cérébrales dans le sport – 5^e conférence internationale sur les commotions cérébrales dans le sport, Berlin, octobre 2016. *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, 51(11), 838-847.

Lettre d'autorisation médicale

Date : _____

Nom d'athlète : _____

Madame, Monsieur,

Les athlètes chez qui on a décelé une commotion cérébrale devraient être suivis conformément aux Lignes directrices canadiennes sur les commotions cérébrales dans le sport, y compris les stratégies de retour à l'école et de retour au sport (voir page 2 de la présente lettre). Par conséquent, l'athlète mentionné ci-dessus a reçu l'autorisation médicale de participer aux activités suivantes selon la tolérance à compter de la date indiquée ci-dessus (cochez toutes les situations qui s'appliquent) :

- Activité limitant les symptômes (activités cognitives et physiques qui ne causant pas de symptômes)**
- Activité aérobie peu exigeante (Marche à pied ou bicyclette stationnaire, rythme lent ou moyen. Aucun exercice de résistance.)**
- Exercices spécifique à un sport (Exercices de course ou de patinage. Aucune activité posant un risque d'impact à la tête.)**
- Exercices d'entraînement n'impliquant pas de contact (Exercices d'entraînement plus difficiles, par exemples exercices de lancer. Peut commencer un entraînement d'activités de résistance progressif. Peut comprendre des activités de gymnastique qui ne risquent pas de provoquer de contact, comme le tennis, la course ou la natation).**
- Entraînement avec contacts sans restrictions (dont des activités de gymnastiques pouvant entraîner un risque de contact et un choc à la tête, p. ex. soccer, ballon chasseur, basketball).**
- Pratique normale du sport.**

Que faire en cas de réapparition des symptômes ? L'athlète qui a été autorisé à reprendre des activités physiques, la gymnastique ou des pratiques sans contact, et chez qui les symptômes réapparaissent, devrait immédiatement cesser l'activité et en informer son enseignant ou entraîneur. Si les symptômes disparaissent, l'athlète peut continuer à participer à ces activités en fonction de sa tolérance.

Les athlètes que l'on a autorisé à pratiquer des activités ou des éducatifs de contact complet doivent pouvoir aller à l'école à temps plein (ou pratiquer des activités cognitives normales), ainsi que faire des exercices de grande résistance et d'endurance (dont des pratiques sans contact) sans que les symptômes ne réapparaissent. L'athlète qui a été autorisé à pratiquer des activités de contact complet ou des éducatifs complets, et chez qui les symptômes réapparaissent, devrait immédiatement cesser de jouer et en informer son enseignant ou entraîneur, puis faire l'objet d'une évaluation médicale par un médecin ou un infirmier praticien avant de reprendre les activités ou éducatifs avec contact complet.

Les athlètes qui reprennent des activités ou des éducatifs et ayant une possible commotion cérébrales devraient être suivis conformément aux *Lignes directrices canadiennes sur les commotions cérébrales dans le sport*.

Autres commentaires :

Nous vous remercions d'avance pour votre compréhension.

Cordialement,

Signature/ lettres moulées _____ Médecin /Infirmier praticien (Encercler la désignation qui convient)*

*En régions rurales ou nordiques, la Lettre confirmant le diagnostic médical peut être remplie par un infirmier ou une infirmière avec l'avis préalable d'un médecin ou d'un infirmier praticien. Les formulaires remplis par d'autres professionnels de la santé agréés ne devraient pas être autrement acceptés.

Nous recommandons que ce document soit fourni au athlète sans frais.

Stratégie de retour à l'école

La Stratégie de retour à l'école présentée ci-après doit être utilisée pour permettre aux étudiants-athlètes, aux parents et aux enseignants de s'associer afin que l'élève reprenne progressivement les activités scolaires. En fonction de la gravité et du type de symptômes, les étudiants-athlètes franchiront les étapes suivantes à un rythme différent. Si l'élève présente de nouveaux symptômes ou si ses symptômes s'aggravent lors d'une étape, il doit revenir à l'étape précédente.

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Stratégie de retour au sport spécifique à un sport

La Stratégie de retour au sport présentée ci-après doit être utilisée pour permettre aux athlètes, aux entraîneurs et aux professionnels de la santé de s'associer afin que l'athlète reprenne progressivement les activités sportives. Une stratégie orientée vers le sport devrait être élaborée en personnalisant les activités et permettre à l'élève de reprendre progressivement ses activités sportives.

On recommande une période de 24 à 48 heures de repos avant d'appliquer la Stratégie de retour au sport. Si l'athlète présente de nouveaux symptômes ou si ses symptômes s'aggravent lors d'une étape, il doit revenir à l'étape précédente. Il est important que les étudiants-athlètes mineurs et adultes reprennent des activités scolaires à temps plein avant d'entreprendre les étapes 5 et 6 de la Stratégie de retour au sport. Il est également important que tous les athlètes fournissent à leur entraîneur une Lettre d'autorisation médicale avant de reprendre des activités sportives de contact complet.

Étape	Objectif	Activité	Objectif de chaque étape
1	Activité ne causant pas de symptômes	Activités quotidiennes qui ne créent pas de symptômes.	Réintroduction graduelle d'activités liées au travail/à l'école.
2	Activité aérobique peu exigeante	Marche à pied ou bicyclette stationnaire, rythme lent ou moyen. Aucun exercice de résistance.	Augmenter le rythme cardiaque.
3	Exercices spécifique à un sport	Exercices de course ou de patinage. Aucune activité posant un risque d'impact à la tête.	Ajouter des mouvements supplémentaires.
4	Exercices d'entraînement n'impliquant pas de contact	Exercices d'entraînement plus difficiles, ex. : lancement du ballon. Peut commencer un entraînement d'activités de résistance progressif.	Augmenter les activités sportives, de coordination et les activités cognitives.
5	Entraînement avec contacts sans restrictions	Après avoir obtenu l'autorisation d'un médecin.	Rétablir la confiance et évaluation de compétences fonctionnelles de l'athlète par les entraîneurs.
6	Retour au sport	Pratique normale du sport.	

Source : McCrory et coll. (2017). Énoncé de consensus sur les commotions cérébrales dans le sport – 5^e conférence internationale sur les commotions cérébrales dans le sport, Berlin, octobre 2016. *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, 51(11), 838-847.

Outil d'identification des commotions cérébrales 5 (CRT5)

- ▶ Disponible en ligne : <http://bjsm.bmj.com/content/bjsports/51/11/872.full.pdf> (Anglais seulement)

CONCUSSION RECOGNITION TOOL 5 ©

To help identify concussion in children, adolescents and adults



Supported by

RECOGNISE & REMOVE

Head impacts can be associated with serious and potentially fatal brain injuries. The Concussion Recognition Tool 5 (CRT5) is to be used for the identification of suspected concussion. It is not designed to diagnose concussion.

STEP 1: RED FLAGS – CALL AN AMBULANCE

If there is concern after an injury including whether ANY of the following signs are observed or complaints are reported then the player should be safely and immediately removed from play/game/activity. If no licensed healthcare professional is available, call an ambulance for urgent medical assessment:

- Neck pain or tenderness
- Double vision
- Weakness or tingling/burning in arms or legs
- Severe or increasing headache
- Seizure or convulsion
- Loss of consciousness
- Deteriorating conscious state
- Vomiting
- Increasingly restless, agitated or combative

Remember:

- In all cases, the basic principles of first aid (danger, response, airway, breathing, circulation) should be followed.
- Assessment for a spinal cord injury is critical.
- Do not attempt to move the player (other than required for airway support) unless trained to do so.
- Do not remove a helmet or any other equipment unless trained to do so safely.

If there are no Red Flags, identification of possible concussion should proceed to the following steps:

STEP 2: OBSERVABLE SIGNS

Visual clues that suggest possible concussion include:

- Lying motionless on the playing surface
- Slow to get up after a direct or indirect hit to the head
- Disorientation or confusion, or an inability to respond appropriately to questions
- Balance, gait difficulties, motor incoordination, stumbling, slow laboured movements
- Blank or vacant look
- Facial injury after head trauma

STEP 3: SYMPTOMS

- Headache
- "Pressure in head"
- Balance problems
- Nausea or vomiting
- Drowsiness
- Dizziness
- Blurred vision
- Sensitivity to light
- Sensitivity to noise
- Fatigue or low energy
- "Don't feel right"
- More emotional
- More irritable
- Sadness
- Nervous or anxious
- Neck Pain
- Feeling like "in a fog"
- Difficulty concentrating
- Difficulty remembering
- Feeling slowed down
- Feeling like "in a fog"

STEP 4: MEMORY ASSESSMENT

(IN ATHLETES OLDER THAN 12 YEARS)

Failure to answer any of these questions (modified appropriately for each sport) correctly may suggest a concussion:

- "What venue are we at today?"
- "Which half is it now?"
- "Who scored last in this game?"
- "What team did you play last week/game?"
- "Did your team win the last game?"

Athletes with suspected concussion should:

- Not be left alone initially (at least for the first 1-2 hours).
- Not drink alcohol.
- Not use recreational/ prescription drugs.
- Not be sent home by themselves. They need to be with a responsible adult.
- Not drive a motor vehicle until cleared to do so by a healthcare professional.

The CRT5 may be freely copied in its current form for distribution to individuals, teams, groups and organisations. Any revision and any reproduction in a digital form requires approval by the Concussion in Sport Group. It should not be altered in any way, rebranded or sold for commercial gain.

ANY ATHLETE WITH A SUSPECTED CONCUSSION SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY REMOVED FROM PRACTICE OR PLAY AND SHOULD NOT RETURN TO ACTIVITY UNTIL ASSESSED MEDICALLY, EVEN IF THE SYMPTOMS RESOLVE

© Concussion in Sport Group 2017

Sport Concussion Assessment Tool – 5th Edition (SCAT5)

- ▶ Available online: <http://bjsm.bmj.com/content/bjsports/51/11/851.full.pdf>
(Anglais seulement)

SCAT5 © **SPORT CONCUSSION ASSESSMENT TOOL – 5TH EDITION**
DEVELOPED BY THE CONCUSSION IN SPORT GROUP
FOR USE BY MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS ONLY

supported by

    

Patient details

Name: _____

DOB: _____

Address: _____

ID number: _____

Examiner: _____

Date of Injury: _____ Time: _____

WHAT IS THE SCAT5?

The SCAT5 is a standardized tool for evaluating concussions designed for use by physicians and licensed healthcare professionals¹. The SCAT5 cannot be performed correctly in less than 10 minutes.

If you are not a physician or licensed healthcare professional, please use the Concussion Recognition Tool 5 (CRT5). The SCAT5 is to be used for evaluating athletes aged 13 years and older. For children aged 12 years or younger, please use the Child SCAT5.

Preseason SCAT5 baseline testing can be useful for interpreting post-injury test scores, but is not required for that purpose. Detailed instructions for use of the SCAT5 are provided on page 7. Please read through these instructions carefully before testing the athlete. Brief verbal instructions for each test are given in italics. The only equipment required for the tester is a watch or timer.

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Recognise and Remove

A head impact by either a direct blow or indirect transmission of force can be associated with a serious and potentially fatal brain injury. If there are significant concerns, including any of the red flags listed in Box 1, then activation of emergency procedures and urgent transport to the nearest hospital should be arranged.

Key points

- Any athlete with suspected concussion should be **REMOVED FROM PLAY**, medically assessed and monitored for deterioration. No athlete diagnosed with concussion should be returned to play on the day of injury.
- If an athlete is suspected of having a concussion and medical personnel are not immediately available, the athlete should be referred to a medical facility for urgent assessment.
- Athletes with suspected concussion should not drink alcohol, use recreational drugs and should not drive a motor vehicle until cleared to do so by a medical professional.
- Concussion signs and symptoms evolve over time and it is important to consider repeat evaluation in the assessment of concussion.
- The diagnosis of a concussion is a clinical judgment, made by a medical professional. The SCAT5 should **NOT** be used by itself to make, or exclude, the diagnosis of concussion. An athlete may have a concussion even if their SCAT5 is "normal".

Remember:

- The basic principles of first aid (danger, response, airway, **Te**breathing, circulation) should be followed.
- Do not attempt to move the athlete (other than that required for airway management) unless trained to do so.
- Assessment for a spinal cord injury is a critical part of the initial on-field assessment.
- Do not remove a helmet or any other equipment unless trained to do so safely.

IMMEDIATE OR ON-FIELD ASSESSMENT

The following elements should be assessed for all athletes who are suspected of having a concussion prior to proceeding to the neurocognitive assessment and ideally should be done on-field after the first first aid / emergency care priorities are completed.

If any of the "Red Flags" or observable signs are noted after a direct or indirect blow to the head, the athlete should be immediately and safely removed from participation and evaluated by a physician or licensed healthcare professional.

Consideration of transportation to a medical facility should be at the discretion of the physician or licensed healthcare professional.

The GCS is important as a standard measure for all patients and can be done serially if necessary in the event of deterioration in conscious state. The Maddocks questions and cervical spine exam are critical steps of the immediate assessment; however, these do not need to be done serially.

STEP 1: RED FLAGS

RED FLAGS:

- Neck pain or tenderness
- Double vision
- Weakness or tingling/ burning in arms or legs
- Severe or increasing headache
- Seizure or convulsion
- Loss of consciousness
- Deteriorating conscious state
- Vomiting
- Increasingly restless, agitated or combative

STEP 2: OBSERVABLE SIGNS

Witnessed Observed on Video

Lying motionless on the playing surface	Y	N
Balance / gait difficulties / motor incoordination: stumbling, slow / laboured movements	Y	N
Disorientation or confusion, or an inability to respond appropriately to questions	Y	N
Blank or vacant look	Y	N
Facial injury after head trauma	Y	N

STEP 3: MEMORY ASSESSMENT MADDOCKS QUESTIONS²

"I am going to ask you a few questions, please listen carefully and give your best effort. First, tell me what happened?"

Mark Y for correct answer / N for incorrect

What venue are we at today?	Y	N
Which half is it now?	Y	N
Who scored last in this match?	Y	N
What team did you play last week / game?	Y	N
Did your team win the last game?	Y	N

Note: Appropriate sport-specific questions may be substituted.

Name: _____
 DOB: _____
 Address: _____
 ID number: _____
 Examiner: _____
 Date: _____

STEP 4: EXAMINATION GLASGOW COMA SCALE (GCS)³

Time of assessment			
Date of assessment			

Best eye response (E)

No eye opening	1	1	1
Eye opening in response to pain	2	2	2
Eye opening to speech	3	3	3
Eyes opening spontaneously	4	4	4

Best verbal response (V)

No verbal response	1	1	1
Incomprehensible sounds	2	2	2
Inappropriate words	3	3	3
Confused	4	4	4
Oriented	5	5	5

Best motor response (M)

No motor response	1	1	1
Extension to pain	2	2	2
Abnormal flexion to pain	3	3	3
Flexion / Withdrawal to pain	4	4	4
Localizes to pain	5	5	5
Obeys commands	6	6	6
Glasgow Coma score (E + V + M)			

CERVICAL SPINE ASSESSMENT

Does the athlete report that their neck is pain free at rest?	Y	N
If there is NO neck pain at rest, does the athlete have a full range of ACTIVE pain free movement?	Y	N
Is the limb strength and sensation normal?	Y	N

In a patient who is not lucid or fully conscious, a cervical spine injury should be assumed until proven otherwise.

OFFICE OR OFF-FIELD ASSESSMENT

Please note that the neurocognitive assessment should be done in a distraction-free environment with the athlete in a resting state.

STEP 1: ATHLETE BACKGROUND

Sport / team / school: _____

Date / time of injury: _____

Years of education completed: _____

Age: _____

Gender: M / F / Other

Dominant hand: left / neither / right

How many diagnosed concussions has the athlete had in the past?: _____

When was the most recent concussion?: _____

How long was the recovery (time to being cleared to play) from the most recent concussion?: _____ (days)

Has the athlete ever been:

	Yes	No
Hospitalized for a head injury?		
Diagnosed / treated for headache disorder or migraines?		
Diagnosed with a learning disability / dyslexia?		
Diagnosed with ADD / ADHD?		
Diagnosed with depression, anxiety or other psychiatric disorder?		

Current medications? If yes, please list:

Name: _____

DOB: _____

Address: _____

ID number: _____

Examiner: _____

Date: _____

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STEP 2: SYMPTOM EVALUATION

The athlete should be given the symptom form and asked to read this instruction paragraph out loud then complete the symptom scale. For the baseline assessment, the athlete should rate his/her symptoms based on how he/she typically feels and for the post injury assessment the athlete should rate their symptoms at this point in time.

Please Check: Baseline Post-Injury

Please hand the form to the athlete

	none	mild	moderate	severe			
Headache	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
"Pressure in head"	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Neck Pain	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Nausea or vomiting	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Dizziness	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Blurred vision	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Balance problems	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Sensitivity to light	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Sensitivity to noise	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Feeling slowed down	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Feeling like "in a fog"	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
"Don't feel right"	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Difficulty concentrating	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Difficulty remembering	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Fatigue or low energy	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Confusion	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Drowsiness	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
More emotional	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Irritability	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Sadness	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Nervous or Anxious	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Trouble falling asleep (if applicable)	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Total number of symptoms:							of 22
Symptom severity score:							of 132
Do your symptoms get worse with physical activity?							Y N
Do your symptoms get worse with mental activity?							Y N
If 100% is feeling perfectly normal, what percent of normal do you feel?							

If not 100%, why?

Please hand form back to examiner

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Davis GA, et al. Br J Sports Med 2017;51:851-858. doi:10.1136/bjsports-2017-097506SCAT5

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STEP 3: COGNITIVE SCREENING

Standardised Assessment of Concussion (SAC)⁴

ORIENTATION

What month is it?	0	1
What is the date today?	0	1
What is the day of the week?	0	1
What year is it?	0	1
What time is it right now? (within 1 hour)	0	1
Orientation score	of 5	

IMMEDIATE MEMORY

The Immediate Memory component can be completed using the traditional 5-word per trial list or optionally using 10-words per trial to minimise any ceiling effect. All 3 trials must be administered irrespective of the number correct on the first trial. Administer at the rate of one word per second.

Please choose EITHER the 5 or 10 word list groups and circle the specific word list chosen for this test.

I am going to test your memory. I will read you a list of words and when I am done, repeat back as many words as you can remember, in any order. For Trials 2 & 3, I am going to repeat the same list again. Repeat back as many words as you can remember in any order, even if you said the word before.

List	Alternate 5 word lists					Score (of 5)		
						Trial 1	Trial 2	Trial 3
A	Finger	Penny	Blanket	Lemon	Insect			
B	Candle	Paper	Sugar	Sandwich	Wagon			
C	Baby	Monkey	Perfume	Sunset	Iron			
D	Elbow	Apple	Carpet	Saddle	Bubble			
E	Jacket	Arrow	Pepper	Cotton	Movie			
F	Dollar	Honey	Mirror	Saddle	Anchor			
Immediate Memory Score						of 15		
Time that last trial was completed								

List	Alternate 10 word lists					Score (of 10)		
						Trial 1	Trial 2	Trial 3
G	Finger	Penny	Blanket	Lemon	Insect			
	Candle	Paper	Sugar	Sandwich	Wagon			
H	Baby	Monkey	Perfume	Sunset	Iron			
	Elbow	Apple	Carpet	Saddle	Bubble			
I	Jacket	Arrow	Pepper	Cotton	Movie			
	Dollar	Honey	Mirror	Saddle	Anchor			
Immediate Memory Score						of 30		
Time that last trial was completed								

Name: _____
 DOB: _____
 Address: _____
 ID number: _____
 Examiner: _____
 Date: _____

CONCENTRATION

DIGITS BACKWARDS

Please circle the Digit list chosen (A, B, C, D, E, F). Administer at the rate of one digit per second reading DOWN the selected column.

I am going to read a string of numbers and when I am done, you repeat them back to me in reverse order of how I read them to you. For example, if I say 7-1-9, you would say 9-1-7.

Concentration Number Lists (circle one)					
List A	List B	List C			
4-9-3	5-2-6	1-4-2	Y	N	0
6-2-9	4-1-5	6-5-8	Y	N	1
3-8-1-4	1-7-9-5	6-8-3-1	Y	N	0
3-2-7-9	4-9-6-8	3-4-8-1	Y	N	1
6-2-9-7-1	4-8-5-2-7	4-9-1-5-3	Y	N	0
1-5-2-8-6	6-1-8-4-3	6-8-2-5-1	Y	N	1
7-1-8-4-6-2	8-3-1-9-6-4	3-7-6-5-1-9	Y	N	0
5-3-9-1-4-8	7-2-4-8-5-6	9-2-6-5-1-4	Y	N	1
List D	List E	List F			
7-8-2	3-8-2	2-7-1	Y	N	0
9-2-6	5-1-8	4-7-9	Y	N	1
4-1-8-3	2-7-9-3	1-6-8-3	Y	N	0
9-7-2-3	2-1-6-9	3-9-2-4	Y	N	1
1-7-9-2-6	4-1-8-6-9	2-4-7-5-8	Y	N	0
4-1-7-5-2	9-4-1-7-5	8-3-9-6-4	Y	N	1
2-6-4-8-1-7	6-9-7-3-8-2	5-8-6-2-4-9	Y	N	0
8-4-1-9-3-5	4-2-7-9-3-8	3-1-7-8-2-6	Y	N	1
Digits Score:			of 4		

MONTHS IN REVERSE ORDER

Now tell me the months of the year in reverse order. Start with the last month and go backward. So you'll say December, November. Go ahead.

Dec - Nov - Oct - Sept - Aug - Jul - Jun - May - Apr - Mar - Feb - Jan

	0	1
Months Score	of 1	
Concentration Total Score (Digits + Months)	of 5	

4

STEP 4: NEUROLOGICAL SCREEN

See the instruction sheet (page 7) for details of test administration and scoring of the tests.

Can the patient read aloud (e.g. symptom checklist) and follow instructions without difficulty?	Y	N
Does the patient have a full range of pain-free PASSIVE cervical spine movement?	Y	N
Without moving their head or neck, can the patient look side-to-side and up-and-down without double vision?	Y	N
Can the patient perform the finger nose coordination test normally?	Y	N
Can the patient perform tandem gait normally?	Y	N

BALANCE EXAMINATION

Modified Balance Error Scoring System (mBESS) testing⁶

Which foot was tested Left Right
 (i.e. which is the non-dominant foot)

Testing surface (hard floor, field, etc.) _____

Footwear (shoes, barefoot, braces, tape, etc.) _____

Condition	Errors
Double leg stance	_____ of 10
Single leg stance (non-dominant foot)	_____ of 10
Tandem stance (non-dominant foot at the back)	_____ of 10
Total Errors	_____ of 30

Name: _____
 DOB: _____
 Address: _____
 ID number: _____
 Examiner: _____
 Date: _____

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STEP 5: DELAYED RECALL:

The delayed recall should be performed after 5 minutes have elapsed since the end of the Immediate Recall section. Score 1 pt. for each correct response.

Do you remember that list of words I read a few times earlier? Tell me as many words from the list as you can remember in any order.

Time Started _____

Please record each word correctly recalled. Total score equals number of words recalled.

Total number of words recalled accurately: _____ of 5 or _____ of 10

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STEP 6: DECISION

Domain	Date & time of assessment:		
Symptom number (of 22)			
Symptom severity score (of 132)			
Orientation (of 5)			
Immediate memory	_____ of 15 _____ of 30	_____ of 15 _____ of 30	_____ of 15 _____ of 30
Concentration (of 5)			
Neuro exam	Normal Abnormal	Normal Abnormal	Normal Abnormal
Balance errors (of 30)			
Delayed Recall	_____ of 5 _____ of 10	_____ of 5 _____ of 10	_____ of 5 _____ of 10

Date and time of injury: _____

If the athlete is known to you prior to their injury, are they different from their usual self?

Yes No Unsure Not Applicable
 (If different, describe why in the clinical notes section)

Concussion Diagnosed?

Yes No Unsure Not Applicable

If re-testing, has the athlete improved?

Yes No Unsure Not Applicable

I am a physician or licensed healthcare professional and I have personally administered or supervised the administration of this SCAT5.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Registration number (if applicable): _____

Date: _____

SCORING ON THE SCAT5 SHOULD NOT BE USED AS A STAND-ALONE METHOD TO DIAGNOSE CONCUSSION, MEASURE RECOVERY OR MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT AN ATHLETE'S READINESS TO RETURN TO COMPETITION AFTER CONCUSSION.

INSTRUCTIONS

Words in *Italics* throughout the SCAT5 are the instructions given to the athlete by the clinician

Symptom Scale

The time frame for symptoms should be based on the type of test being administered. At baseline it is advantageous to assess how an athlete "typically" feels whereas during the acute/post-acute stage it is best to ask how the athlete feels at the time of testing.

The symptom scale should be completed by the athlete, not by the examiner. In situations where the symptom scale is being completed after exercise, it should be done in a resting state, generally by approximating his/her resting heart rate.

For total number of symptoms, maximum possible is 22 except immediately post injury, if sleep item is omitted, which then creates a maximum of 21.

For Symptom severity score, add all scores in table, maximum possible is 22 x 6 = 132, except immediately post injury if sleep item is omitted, which then creates a maximum of 21x6=126.

Immediate Memory

The Immediate Memory component can be completed using the traditional 5-word per trial list or, optionally, using 10-words per trial. The literature suggests that the Immediate Memory has a notable ceiling effect when a 5-word list is used. In settings where this ceiling is prominent, the examiner may wish to make the task more difficult by incorporating two 5-word groups for a total of 10 words per trial. In this case, the maximum score per trial is 10 with a total trial maximum of 30.

Choose one of the word lists (either 5 or 10). Then perform 3 trials of immediate memory using this list.

Complete all 3 trials regardless of score on previous trials.

"I am going to test your memory. I will read you a list of words and when I am done, repeat back as many words as you can remember, in any order." The words must be read at a rate of one word per second.

Trials 2 & 3 MUST be completed regardless of score on trial 1 & 2.

Trials 2 & 3:

"I am going to repeat the same list again. Repeat back as many words as you can remember in any order, even if you said the word before."

Score 1 pt. for each correct response. Total score equals sum across all 3 trials. Do NOT inform the athlete that delayed recall will be tested.

Concentration

Digits backward

Choose one column of digits from lists A, B, C, D, E or F and administer those digits as follows:

Say: "I am going to read a string of numbers and when I am done, you repeat them back to me in reverse order of how I read them to you. For example, if I say 7-1-9, you would say 9-1-7."

Begin with first 3 digit string.

If correct, circle "Y" for correct and go to next string length. If incorrect, circle "N" for the first string length and read trial 2 in the same string length. One point possible for each string length. Stop after incorrect on both trials (2 N's) in a string length. The digits should be read at the rate of one per second.

Months in reverse order

"Now tell me the months of the year in reverse order. Start with the last month and go backward. So you'll say December, November ... Go ahead"

1 pt. for entire sequence correct

Delayed Recall

The delayed recall should be performed after 5 minutes have elapsed since the end of the Immediate Recall section.

"Do you remember that list of words I read a few times earlier? Tell me as many words from the list as you can remember in any order."

Score 1 pt. for each correct response

Modified Balance Error Scoring System (mBESS)⁵ testing

This balance testing is based on a modified version of the Balance Error Scoring System (BESS)⁵. A timing device is required for this testing.

Each of 20-second trial/stance is scored by counting the number of errors. The examiner will begin counting errors only after the athlete has assumed the proper start position. The modified BESS is calculated by adding one error point for each error during the three 20-second tests. The maximum number of errors for any single condition is 10. If the athlete commits multiple errors simultaneously, only

one error is recorded but the athlete should quickly return to the testing position, and counting should resume once the athlete is set. Athletes that are unable to maintain the testing procedure for a minimum of five seconds at the start are assigned the highest possible score, ten, for that testing condition.

OPTION: For further assessment, the same 3 stances can be performed on a surface of medium density foam (e.g., approximately 50cm x 40cm x 6cm).

Balance testing – types of errors

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. Hands lifted off iliac crest | 3. Step, stumble, or fall | 5. Lifting forefoot or heel |
| 2. Opening eyes | 4. Moving hip into > 30 degrees abduction | 6. Remaining out of test position > 5 sec |

"I am now going to test your balance. Please take your shoes off (if applicable), roll up your pant legs above ankle (if applicable), and remove any ankle taping (if applicable). This test will consist of three twenty second tests with different stances."

(a) Double leg stance:

"The first stance is standing with your feet together with your hands on your hips and with your eyes closed. You should try to maintain stability in that position for 20 seconds. I will be counting the number of times you move out of this position. I will start timing when you are set and have closed your eyes."

(b) Single leg stance:

"If you were to kick a ball, which foot would you use? [This will be the dominant foot] Now stand on your non-dominant foot. The dominant leg should be held in approximately 30 degrees of hip flexion and 45 degrees of knee flexion. Again, you should try to maintain stability for 20 seconds with your hands on your hips and your eyes closed. I will be counting the number of times you move out of this position. If you stumble out of this position, open your eyes and return to the start position and continue balancing. I will start timing when you are set and have closed your eyes."

(c) Tandem stance:

"Now stand heel-to-toe with your non-dominant foot in back. Your weight should be evenly distributed across both feet. Again, you should try to maintain stability for 20 seconds with your hands on your hips and your eyes closed. I will be counting the number of times you move out of this position. If you stumble out of this position, open your eyes and return to the start position and continue balancing. I will start timing when you are set and have closed your eyes."

Tandem Gait

Participants are instructed to stand with their feet together behind a starting line (the test is best done with footwear removed). Then, they walk in a forward direction as quickly and as accurately as possible along a 38mm wide (sports tape), 3 metre line with an alternate foot heel-to-toe gait ensuring that they approximate their heel and toe on each step. Once they cross the end of the 3m line, they turn 180 degrees and return to the starting point using the same gait. Athletes fail the test if they step off the line, have a separation between their heel and toe, or if they touch or grab the examiner or an object.

Finger to Nose

"I am going to test your coordination now. Please sit comfortably on the chair with your eyes open and your arm (either right or left) outstretched (shoulder flexed to 90 degrees and elbow and fingers extended), pointing in front of you. When I give a start signal, I would like you to perform five successive finger to nose repetitions using your index finger to touch the tip of the nose, and then return to the starting position, as quickly and as accurately as possible."

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Davis GA, et al. Br J Sports Med 2017;51:851–858. doi:10.1136/bjsports-2017-097506SCAT5

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CONCUSSION INFORMATION

Any athlete suspected of having a concussion should be removed from play and seek medical evaluation.

Signs to watch for

Problems could arise over the first 24-48 hours. The athlete should not be left alone and must go to a hospital at once if they experience:

- Worsening headache
- Drowsiness or inability to be awakened
- Inability to recognize people or places
- Repeated vomiting
- Unusual behaviour or confusion or irritable
- Seizures (arms and legs jerk uncontrollably)
- Weakness or numbness in arms or legs
- Unsteadiness on their feet.
- Slurred speech

Consult your physician or licensed healthcare professional after a suspected concussion. Remember, it is better to be safe.

Rest & Rehabilitation

After a concussion, the athlete should have physical rest and relative cognitive rest for a few days to allow their symptoms to improve. In most cases, after no more than a few days of rest, the athlete should gradually increase their daily activity level as long as their symptoms do not worsen. Once the athlete is able to complete their usual daily activities without concussion-related symptoms, the second step of the return to play/sport progression can be started. The athlete should not return to play/sport until their concussion-related symptoms have resolved and the athlete has successfully returned to full school/learning activities.

When returning to play/sport, the athlete should follow a stepwise, **medically managed exercise progression, with increasing amounts of exercise.** For example:

Graduated Return to Sport Strategy

Exercise step	Functional exercise at each step	Goal of each step
1. Symptom-limited activity	Daily activities that do not provoke symptoms.	Gradual reintroduction of work/school activities.
2. Light aerobic exercise	Walking or stationary cycling at slow to medium pace. No resistance training.	Increase heart rate.
3. Sport-specific exercise	Running or skating drills. No head impact activities.	Add movement.
4. Non-contact training drills	Harder training drills, e.g., passing drills. May start progressive resistance training.	Exercise, coordination, and increased thinking.
5. Full contact practice	Following medical clearance, participate in normal training activities.	Restore confidence and assess functional skills by coaching staff.
6. Return to play/sport	Normal game play.	

In this example, it would be typical to have 24 hours (or longer) for each step of the progression. If any symptoms worsen while exercising, the athlete should go back to the previous step. Resistance training should be added only in the later stages (Stage 3 or 4 at the earliest).

Written clearance should be provided by a healthcare professional before return to play/sport as directed by local laws and regulations.

Graduated Return to School Strategy

Concussion may affect the ability to learn at school. The athlete may need to miss a few days of school after a concussion. When going back to school, some athletes may need to go back gradually and may need to have some changes made to their schedule so that concussion symptoms do not get worse. If a particular activity makes symptoms worse, then the athlete should stop that activity and rest until symptoms get better. To make sure that the athlete can get back to school without problems, it is important that the healthcare provider, parents, caregivers and teachers talk to each other so that everyone knows what the plan is for the athlete to go back to school.

Note: If mental activity does not cause any symptoms, the athlete may be able to skip step 2 and return to school part-time before doing school activities at home first.

Mental Activity	Activity at each step	Goal of each step
1. Daily activities that do not give the athlete symptoms	Typical activities that the athlete does during the day as long as they do not increase symptoms (e.g. reading, texting, screen time). Start with 5-15 minutes at a time and gradually build up.	Gradual return to typical activities.
2. School activities	Homework, reading or other cognitive activities outside of the classroom.	Increase tolerance to cognitive work.
3. Return to school part-time	Gradual introduction of school-work. May need to start with a partial school day or with increased breaks during the day.	Increase academic activities.
4. Return to school full-time	Gradually progress school activities until a full day can be tolerated.	Return to full academic activities and catch up on missed work.

If the athlete continues to have symptoms with mental activity, some other accommodations that can help with return to school may include:

- Starting school later, only going for half days, or going only to certain classes
- More time to finish assignments/tests
- Quiet room to finish assignments/tests
- Not going to noisy areas like the cafeteria, assembly halls, sporting events, music class, shop class, etc.
- Taking lots of breaks during class, homework, tests
- No more than one exam/day
- Shorter assignments
- Repetition/memory cues
- Use of a student helper/tutor
- Reassurance from teachers that the child will be supported while getting better

The athlete should not go back to sports until they are back to school/learning, without symptoms getting significantly worse and no longer needing any changes to their schedule.

Child Sport Concussion Assessment Tool – 5th Edition (Child SCAT5)

- ▶ Available online: <http://bjsm.bmj.com/content/bjsports/51/11/862.full.pdf>
(Anglais seulement)

Child SCAT5[®]

SPORT CONCUSSION ASSESSMENT TOOL
FOR CHILDREN AGES 5 TO 12 YEARS
FOR USE BY MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS ONLY

supported by



Patient details

Name: _____

DOB: _____

Address: _____

ID number: _____

Examiner: _____

Date of Injury: _____ Time: _____

WHAT IS THE CHILD SCAT5?

The Child SCAT5 is a standardized tool for evaluating concussions designed for use by physicians and licensed healthcare professionals¹.

If you are not a physician or licensed healthcare professional, please use the Concussion Recognition Tool 5 (CRT5). The Child SCAT5 is to be used for evaluating Children aged 5 to 12 years. For athletes aged 13 years and older, please use the SCAT5.

Preseason Child SCAT5 baseline testing can be useful for interpreting post-injury test scores, but not required for that purpose. Detailed instructions for use of the Child SCAT5 are provided on page 7. Please read through these instructions carefully before testing the athlete. Brief verbal instructions for each test are given in italics. The only equipment required for the tester is a watch or timer.

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Recognise and Remove

A head impact by either a direct blow or indirect transmission of force can be associated with a serious and potentially fatal brain injury. If there are significant concerns, including any of the red flags listed in Box 1, then activation of emergency procedures and urgent transport to the nearest hospital should be arranged.

Key points

- Any athlete with suspected concussion should be **REMOVED FROM PLAY**, medically assessed and monitored for deterioration. No athlete diagnosed with concussion should be returned to play on the day of injury.
- If the child is suspected of having a concussion and medical personnel are not immediately available, the child should be referred to a medical facility for urgent assessment.
- Concussion signs and symptoms evolve over time and it is important to consider repeat evaluation in the assessment of concussion.
- The diagnosis of a concussion is a clinical judgment, made by a medical professional. The Child SCAT5 should **NOT** be used by itself to make, or exclude, the diagnosis of concussion. An athlete may have a concussion even if their Child SCAT5 is "normal".

Remember:

- The basic principles of first aid (danger, response, airway, breathing, circulation) should be followed.
- Do not attempt to move the athlete (other than that required for airway management) unless trained to do so.
- Assessment for a spinal cord injury is a critical part of the initial on-field assessment.
- Do not remove a helmet or any other equipment unless trained to do so safely.

IMMEDIATE OR ON-FIELD ASSESSMENT

The following elements should be assessed for all athletes who are suspected of having a concussion prior to proceeding to the neurocognitive assessment and ideally should be done on-field after the first first aid / emergency care priorities are completed.

If any of the "Red Flags" or observable signs are noted after a direct or indirect blow to the head, the athlete should be immediately and safely removed from participation and evaluated by a physician or licensed healthcare professional.

Consideration of transportation to a medical facility should be at the discretion of the physician or licensed healthcare professional.

The GCS is important as a standard measure for all patients and can be done serially if necessary in the event of deterioration in conscious state. The cervical spine exam is a critical step of the immediate assessment, however, it does not need to be done serially.

STEP 1: RED FLAGS

RED FLAGS:

- Neck pain or tenderness
- Double vision
- Weakness or tingling/burning in arms or legs
- Severe or increasing headache
- Seizure or convulsion
- Loss of consciousness
- Deteriorating conscious state
- Vomiting
- Increasingly restless, agitated or combative

STEP 2: OBSERVABLE SIGNS

Witnessed Observed on Video

Lying motionless on the playing surface	Y	N
Balance / gait difficulties / motor incoordination: stumbling, slow / laboured movements	Y	N
Disorientation or confusion, or an inability to respond appropriately to questions	Y	N
Blank or vacant look	Y	N
Facial injury after head trauma	Y	N

STEP 3: EXAMINATION

GLASGOW COMA SCALE (GCS)²

Time of assessment			
Date of assessment			

Best eye response (E)			
No eye opening	1	1	1
Eye opening in response to pain	2	2	2
Eye opening to speech	3	3	3
Eyes opening spontaneously	4	4	4
Best verbal response (V)			
No verbal response	1	1	1

Name: _____
 DOB: _____
 Address: _____
 ID number: _____
 Examiner: _____
 Date: _____

Incomprehensible sounds	2	2	2
Inappropriate words	3	3	3
Confused	4	4	4
Oriented	5	5	5
Best motor response (M)			
No motor response	1	1	1
Extension to pain	2	2	2
Abnormal flexion to pain	3	3	3
Flexion / Withdrawal to pain	4	4	4
Localizes to pain	5	5	5
Obeys commands	6	6	6
Glasgow Coma score (E + V + M)			

CERVICAL SPINE ASSESSMENT

Does the athlete report that their neck is pain free at rest?	Y	N
If there is NO neck pain at rest , does the athlete have a full range of ACTIVE pain free movement?	Y	N
Is the limb strength and sensation normal?	Y	N

In a patient who is not lucid or fully conscious, a cervical spine injury should be assumed until proven otherwise.

OFFICE OR OFF-FIELD ASSESSMENT STEP 1: ATHLETE BACKGROUND

Please note that the neurocognitive assessment should be done in a distraction-free environment with the athlete in a resting state.

Sport / team / school: _____
 Date / time of injury: _____
 Years of education completed: _____
 Age: _____
 Gender: M / F / Other _____
 Dominant hand: left / neither / right _____
 How many diagnosed concussions has the athlete had in the past?: _____
 When was the most recent concussion?: _____
 How long was the recovery (time to being cleared to play) from the most recent concussion?: _____ (days)
Has the athlete ever been:

Hospitalized for a head injury?	Yes	No
Diagnosed / treated for headache disorder or migraines?	Yes	No
Diagnosed with a learning disability / dyslexia?	Yes	No
Diagnosed with ADD / ADHD?	Yes	No
Diagnosed with depression, anxiety or other psychiatric disorder?	Yes	No

Current medications? If yes, please list: _____

STEP 2: SYMPTOM EVALUATION

The athlete should be given the symptom form and asked to read this instruction paragraph out loud then complete the symptom scale. For the baseline assessment, the athlete should rate his/her symptoms based on how he/she typically feels and for the post injury assessment the athlete should rate their symptoms at this point in time.

To be done in a resting state

Please Check: Baseline Post-Injury

2

Child Report³

	Not at all/ Never	A little/ Rarely	Somewhat/ Sometimes	A lot/ Often
I have headaches	0	1	2	3
I feel dizzy	0	1	2	3
I feel like the room is spinning	0	1	2	3
I feel like I'm going to faint	0	1	2	3
Things are blurry when I look at them	0	1	2	3
I see double	0	1	2	3
I feel sick to my stomach	0	1	2	3
My neck hurts	0	1	2	3
I get tired a lot	0	1	2	3
I get tired easily	0	1	2	3
I have trouble paying attention	0	1	2	3
I get distracted easily	0	1	2	3
I have a hard time concentrating	0	1	2	3
I have problems remembering what people tell me	0	1	2	3
I have problems following directions	0	1	2	3
I daydream too much	0	1	2	3
I get confused	0	1	2	3
I forget things	0	1	2	3
I have problems finishing things	0	1	2	3
I have trouble figuring things out	0	1	2	3
It's hard for me to learn new things	0	1	2	3
Total number of symptoms:				of 21
Symptom severity score:				of 63
Do the symptoms get worse with physical activity?		Y	N	
Do the symptoms get worse with trying to think?		Y	N	

Overall rating for child to answer:

	Very bad	Very good
On a scale of 0 to 10 (where 10 is normal), how do you feel now?	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	

If not 10, in what way do you feel different?

Name: _____

DOB: _____

Address: _____

ID number: _____

Examiner: _____

Date: _____

Parent Report

The child:	Not at all/ Never	A little/ Rarely	Somewhat/ Sometimes	A lot/ Often
has headaches	0	1	2	3
feels dizzy	0	1	2	3
has a feeling that the room is spinning	0	1	2	3
feels faint	0	1	2	3
has blurred vision	0	1	2	3
has double vision	0	1	2	3
experiences nausea	0	1	2	3
has a sore neck	0	1	2	3
gets tired a lot	0	1	2	3
gets tired easily	0	1	2	3
has trouble sustaining attention	0	1	2	3
is easily distracted	0	1	2	3
has difficulty concentrating	0	1	2	3
has problems remembering what he/she is told	0	1	2	3
has difficulty following directions	0	1	2	3
tends to daydream	0	1	2	3
gets confused	0	1	2	3
is forgetful	0	1	2	3
has difficulty completing tasks	0	1	2	3
has poor problem solving skills	0	1	2	3
has problems learning	0	1	2	3
Total number of symptoms:				of 21
Symptom severity score:				of 63
Do the symptoms get worse with physical activity?		Y	N	
Do the symptoms get worse with mental activity?		Y	N	

Overall rating for parent/teacher/coach/carer to answer

On a scale of 0 to 100% (where 100% is normal), how would you rate the child now?

If not 100%, in what way does the child seem different?

STEP 3: COGNITIVE SCREENING

Standardized Assessment of Concussion - Child Version (SAC-C)⁴

IMMEDIATE MEMORY

The Immediate Memory component can be completed using the traditional 5-word per trial list or optionally using 10-words per trial to minimise any ceiling effect. All 3 trials must be administered irrespective of the number correct on the first trial. Administer at the rate of one word per second.

Please choose EITHER the 5 or 10 word list groups and circle the specific word list chosen for this test.

I am going to test your memory. I will read you a list of words and when I am done, repeat back as many words as you can remember, in any order. For Trials 2 & 3: I am going to repeat the same list again. Repeat back as many words as you can remember in any order, even if you said the word before.

List	Alternate 5 word lists					Score (of 5)		
						Trial 1	Trial 2	Trial 3
A	Finger	Penny	Blanket	Lemon	Insect			
B	Candle	Paper	Sugar	Sandwich	Wagon			
C	Baby	Monkey	Perfume	Sunset	Iron			
D	Elbow	Apple	Carpet	Saddle	Bubble			
E	Jacket	Arrow	Pepper	Cotton	Movie			
F	Dollar	Honey	Mirror	Saddle	Anchor			
Immediate Memory Score						of 15		
Time that last trial was completed								

List	Alternate 10 word lists					Score (of 10)		
						Trial 1	Trial 2	Trial 3
G	Finger	Penny	Blanket	Lemon	Insect			
	Candle	Paper	Sugar	Sandwich	Wagon			
H	Baby	Monkey	Perfume	Sunset	Iron			
	Elbow	Apple	Carpet	Saddle	Bubble			
I	Jacket	Arrow	Pepper	Cotton	Movie			
	Dollar	Honey	Mirror	Saddle	Anchor			
Immediate Memory Score						of 30		
Time that last trial was completed								

Name: _____
 DOB: _____
 Address: _____
 ID number: _____
 Examiner: _____
 Date: _____

CONCENTRATION

DIGITS BACKWARDS

Please circle the Digit list chosen (A, B, C, D, E, F). Administer at the rate of one digit per second reading DOWN the selected column.

I am going to read a string of numbers and when I am done, you repeat them back to me in reverse order of how I read them to you. For example, if I say 7-1-9, you would say 9-1-7.

Concentration Number Lists (circle one)					
List A	List B	List C			
5-2	4-1	4-9	Y	N	0
4-1	9-4	6-2	Y	N	1
4-9-3	5-2-6	1-4-2	Y	N	0
6-2-9	4-1-5	6-5-8	Y	N	1
3-8-1-4	1-7-9-5	6-8-3-1	Y	N	0
3-2-7-9	4-9-6-8	3-4-8-1	Y	N	1
6-2-9-7-1	4-8-5-2-7	4-9-1-5-3	Y	N	0
1-5-2-8-6	6-1-8-4-3	6-8-2-5-1	Y	N	1
7-1-8-4-6-2	8-3-1-9-6-4	3-7-6-5-1-9	Y	N	0
5-3-9-1-4-8	7-2-4-8-5-6	9-2-6-5-1-4	Y	N	1
List D	List E	List F			
2-7	9-2	7-8	Y	N	0
5-9	6-1	5-1	Y	N	1
7-8-2	3-8-2	2-7-1	Y	N	0
9-2-6	5-1-8	4-7-9	Y	N	1
4-1-8-3	2-7-9-3	1-6-8-3	Y	N	0
9-7-2-3	2-1-6-9	3-9-2-4	Y	N	1
1-7-9-2-6	4-1-8-6-9	2-4-7-5-8	Y	N	0
4-1-7-5-2	9-4-1-7-5	8-3-9-6-4	Y	N	1
2-6-4-8-1-7	6-9-7-3-8-2	5-8-6-2-4-9	Y	N	0
8-4-1-9-3-5	4-2-7-3-9-8	3-1-7-8-2-6	Y	N	1
Digits Score: of 5					

DAYS IN REVERSE ORDER

Now tell me the days of the week in reverse order. Start with the last day and go backward. So you'll say Sunday, Saturday. Go ahead.

Sunday - Saturday - Friday - Thursday - Wednesday - Tuesday - Monday	0	1
Days Score	of 1	
Concentration Total Score (Digits + Days)	of 6	

4

STEP 4: NEUROLOGICAL SCREEN

See the instruction sheet (page 7) for details of test administration and scoring of the tests.

Can the patient read aloud (e.g. symptom checklist) and follow instructions without difficulty?	Y	N
Does the patient have a full range of pain-free PASSIVE cervical spine movement?	Y	N
Without moving their head or neck, can the patient look side-to-side and up-and-down without double vision?	Y	N
Can the patient perform the finger nose coordination test normally?	Y	N
Can the patient perform tandem gait normally?	Y	N

BALANCE EXAMINATION**Modified Balance Error Scoring System (BESS) testing⁵**

Which foot was tested (i.e. which is the non-dominant foot) Left Right

Testing surface (hard floor, field, etc.) _____

Footwear (shoes, barefoot, braces, tape, etc.) _____

Condition	Errors
Double leg stance	_____ of 10
Single leg stance (non-dominant foot, 10-12 y/o only)	_____ of 10
Tandem stance (non-dominant foot at back)	_____ of 10
Total Errors	5-9 y/o of 20 10-12 y/o of 30

Name: _____
 DOB: _____
 Address: _____
 ID number: _____
 Examiner: _____
 Date: _____

5

STEP 5: DELAYED RECALL:

The delayed recall should be performed after 5 minutes have elapsed since the end of the Immediate Recall section. Score 1 pt. for each correct response.

Do you remember that list of words I read a few times earlier? Tell me as many words from the list as you can remember in any order.

Time Started

Please record each word correctly recalled. Total score equals number of words recalled.

Total number of words recalled accurately: _____ of 5 or _____ of 10

6

STEP 6: DECISION

Domain	Date & time of assessment:		
Symptom number Child report (of 21) Parent report (of 21)			
Symptom severity score Child report (of 63) Parent report (of 63)			
Immediate memory	_____ of 15 _____ of 30	_____ of 15 _____ of 30	_____ of 15 _____ of 30
Concentration (of 6)			
Neuro exam	Normal Abnormal	Normal Abnormal	Normal Abnormal
Balance errors (5-9 y/o of 20) (10-12 y/o of 30)			
Delayed Recall	_____ of 5 _____ of 10	_____ of 5 _____ of 10	_____ of 5 _____ of 10

Date and time of injury: _____

If the athlete is known to you prior to their injury, are they different from their usual self?

Yes No Unsure Not Applicable

(If different, describe why in the clinical notes section)

Concussion Diagnosed?

Yes No Unsure Not Applicable

If re-testing, has the athlete improved?

Yes No Unsure Not Applicable

I am a physician or licensed healthcare professional and I have personally administered or supervised the administration of this Child SCAT5.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Registration number (if applicable): _____

Date: _____

SCORING ON THE CHILD SCAT5 SHOULD NOT BE USED AS A STAND-ALONE METHOD TO DIAGNOSE CONCUSSION, MEASURE RECOVERY OR MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT AN ATHLETE'S READINESS TO RETURN TO COMPETITION AFTER CONCUSSION.

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Davis GA, et al. *Br J Sports Med* 2017;51:862–869. doi:10.1136/bjsports-2017-097492childscat5

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For the Neurological Screen (page 5), if the child cannot read, ask him/her to describe what they see in this picture.

Name: _____
 DOB: _____
 Address: _____
 ID number: _____
 Examiner: _____
 Date: _____

CLINICAL NOTES:



Concussion injury advice for the child and parents/caregivers

(To be given to the person monitoring the concussed child)

This child has had an injury to the head and needs to be carefully watched for the next 24 hours by a responsible adult.

If you notice any change in behavior, vomiting, dizziness, worsening headache, double vision or excessive drowsiness, please call an ambulance to take the child to hospital immediately.

Other important points:

Following concussion, the child should rest for at least 24 hours.

- The child should not use a computer, internet or play video games if these activities make symptoms worse.
- The child should not be given any medications, including pain killers, unless prescribed by a medical doctor.
- The child should not go back to school until symptoms are improving.
- The child should not go back to sport or play until a doctor gives permission.

Clinic phone number: _____

Patient's name: _____

Date / time of injury: _____

Date / time of medical review: _____

Healthcare Provider: _____

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Contact details or stamp

INSTRUCTIONS

Words in *Italics* throughout the Child SCAT5 are the instructions given to the athlete by the clinician

Symptom Scale

In situations where the symptom scale is being completed after exercise, it should still be done in a resting state, at least 10 minutes post exercise.

At Baseline

- The child is to complete the Child Report, according to how he/she feels today, and
- The parent/carer is to complete the Parent Report according to how the child has been over the previous week.

On the day of injury

- The child is to complete the Child Report, according to how he/she feels now.
- If the parent is present, and has had time to assess the child on the day of injury, the parent completes the Parent Report according to how the child appears now.

On all subsequent days

- The child is to complete the Child Report, according to how he/she feels today, and
- The parent/carer is to complete the Parent Report according to how the child has been over the previous 24 hours.

For Total number of symptoms, maximum possible is 21

For Symptom severity score, add all scores in table, maximum possible is 21 x 3 = 63

Standardized Assessment of Concussion Child Version (SAC-C)

Immediate Memory

Choose one of the 5-word lists. Then perform 3 trials of immediate memory using this list.

Complete all 3 trials regardless of score on previous trials.

"I am going to test your memory. I will read you a list of words and when I am done, repeat back as many words as you can remember, in any order." The words must be read at a rate of one word per second.

OPTION: The literature suggests that the Immediate Memory has a notable ceiling effect when a 5-word list is used. (In younger children, use the 5-word list). In settings where this ceiling is prominent the examiner may wish to make the task more difficult by incorporating two 5-word groups for a total of 10 words per trial. In this case the maximum score per trial is 10 with a total trial maximum of 30.

Trials 2 & 3 MUST be completed regardless of score on trial 1 & 2.

Trials 2 & 3: *"I am going to repeat the same list again. Repeat back as many words as you can remember in any order, even if you said the word before."*

Score 1 pt. for each correct response. Total score equals sum across all 3 trials. Do NOT inform the athlete that delayed recall will be tested.

Concentration

Digits backward

Choose one column only, from List A, B, C, D, E or F, and administer those digits as follows:

"I am going to read you some numbers and when I am done, you say them back to me backwards, in reverse order of how I read them to you. For example, if I say 7-1, you would say 1-7."

If correct, circle "Y" for correct and go to next string length. If incorrect, circle "N" for the first string length and read trial 2 in the same string length. One point possible for each string length. Stop after incorrect on both trials (2 N's) in a string length. The digits should be read at the rate of one per second.

Days of the week in reverse order

"Now tell me the days of the week in reverse order. Start with Sunday and go backward. So you'll say Sunday, Saturday ... Go ahead"

1 pt. for entire sequence correct

Delayed Recall

The delayed recall should be performed after at least 5 minutes have elapsed since the end of the Immediate Recall section.

"Do you remember that list of words I read a few times earlier? Tell me as many words from the list as you can remember in any order."

Circle each word correctly recalled. Total score equals number of words recalled.

Neurological Screen

Reading

The child is asked to read a paragraph of text from the instructions in the Child SCAT5. For children who can not read, they are asked to describe what they see in a photograph or picture, such as that on page 6 of the Child SCAT5.

Modified Balance Error Scoring System (mBESS)⁵ testing

These instructions are to be read by the person administering the Child SCAT5, and each balance task should be demonstrated to the child. The child should then be asked to copy what the examiner demonstrated.

Each of 20-second trial/stance is scored by counting the number of errors. The total balance testing is based on a modified version of the Balance Error Scoring System (BESS)⁵.

A stopwatch or watch with a second hand is required for this testing.

"I am now going to test your balance. Please take your shoes off, roll up your pants above your ankle (if applicable), and remove any ankle taping (if applicable). This test will consist of two different parts."

OPTION: For further assessment, the same 3 stances can be performed on a surface of medium density foam (e.g., approximately 50cm x 40cm x 6cm).

(a) Double leg stance:

The first stance is standing with the feet together with hands on hips and with eyes closed. The child should try to maintain stability in that position for 20 seconds. You should inform the child that you will be counting the number of times the child moves out of this position. You should start timing when the child is set and the eyes are closed.

(b) Tandem stance:

Instruct or show the child how to stand heel-to-toe with the non-dominant foot in the back. Weight should be evenly distributed across both feet. Again, the child should try to maintain stability for 20 seconds with hands on hips and eyes closed. You should inform the child that you will be counting the number of times the child moves out of this position. If the child stumbles out of this position, instruct him/her to open the eyes and return to the start position and continue balancing. You should start timing when the child is set and the eyes are closed.

(c) Single leg stance (10-12 year olds only):

"If you were to kick a ball, which foot would you use? [This will be the dominant foot] Now stand on your other foot. You should bend your other leg and hold it up (show the child). Again, try to stay in that position for 20 seconds with your hands on your hips and your eyes closed. I will be counting the number of times you move out of this position. If you move out of this position, open your eyes and return to the start position and keep balancing. I will start timing when you are set and have closed your eyes."

Balance testing – types of errors

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. Hands lifted off iliac crest | 3. Step, stumble, or fall | 5. Lifting forefoot or heel |
| 2. Opening eyes | 4. Moving hip into > 30 degrees abduction | 6. Remaining out of test position > 5 sec |

Each of the 20-second trials is scored by counting the errors, or deviations from the proper stance, accumulated by the child. The examiner will begin counting errors only after the child has assumed the proper start position. The modified BESS is calculated by adding one error point for each error during the 20-second tests. The maximum total number of errors for any single condition is 10. If a child commits multiple errors simultaneously, only one error is recorded but the child should quickly return to the testing position, and counting should resume once subject is set. Children who are unable to maintain the testing procedure for a minimum of five seconds at the start are assigned the highest possible score, ten, for that testing condition.

Tandem Gait

Instruction for the examiner - Demonstrate the following to the child:

The child is instructed to stand with their feet together behind a starting line (the test is best done with footwear removed). Then, they walk in a forward direction as quickly and as accurately as possible along a 38mm wide (sports tape), 3 metre line with an alternate foot heel-to-toe gait ensuring that they approximate their heel and toe on each step. Once they cross the end of the 3m line, they turn 180 degrees and return to the starting point using the same gait. Children fail the test if they step off the line, have a separation between their heel and toe, or if they touch or grab the examiner or an object.

Finger to Nose

The tester should demonstrate it to the child.

"I am going to test your coordination now. Please sit comfortably on the chair with your eyes open and your arm (either right or left) outstretched (shoulder flexed to 90 degrees and elbow and fingers extended). When I give a start signal, I would like you to perform five successive finger to nose repetitions using your index finger to touch the tip of the nose as quickly and as accurately as possible."

Scoring: 5 correct repetitions in < 4 seconds = 1

Note for testers: Children fail the test if they do not touch their nose, do not fully extend their elbow or do not perform five repetitions.

References

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- Guskiewicz KM. Assessment of postural stability following sport-related concussion. Current Sports Medicine Reports. 2003; 2: 24-30

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CONCUSSION INFORMATION

If you think you or a teammate has a concussion, tell your coach/trainer/parent right away so that you can be taken out of the game. You or your teammate should be seen by a doctor as soon as possible. **YOU OR YOUR TEAMMATE SHOULD NOT GO BACK TO PLAY/SPORT THAT DAY.**

Signs to watch for

Problems can happen over the first 24-48 hours. You or your teammate should not be left alone and must go to a hospital right away if any of the following happens:

- New headache, or headache gets worse
- Neck pain that gets worse
- Becomes sleepy/drowsy or can't be woken up
- Cannot recognise people or places
- Feeling sick to your stomach or vomiting
- Acting weird/strange, seems/feels confused, or is irritable
- Has any seizures (arms and/or legs jerk uncontrollably)
- Has weakness, numbness or tingling (arms, legs or face)
- Is unsteady walking or standing
- Talking is slurred
- Cannot understand what someone is saying or directions

Consult your physician or licensed healthcare professional after a suspected concussion. Remember, it is better to be safe.

Graduated Return to Sport Strategy

After a concussion, the child should rest physically and mentally for a few days to allow symptoms to get better. In most cases, after a few days of rest, they can gradually increase their daily activity level as long as symptoms don't get worse. Once they are able to do their usual daily activities without symptoms, the child should gradually increase exercise in steps, guided by the healthcare professional (see below).

The athlete should not return to play/sport the day of injury.

NOTE: An initial period of a few days of both cognitive ("thinking") and physical rest is recommended before beginning the Return to Sport progression.

Exercise step	Functional exercise at each step	Goal of each step
1. Symptom-limited activity	Daily activities that do not provoke symptoms.	Gradual reintroduction of work/school activities.
2. Light aerobic exercise	Walking or stationary cycling at slow to medium pace. No resistance training.	Increase heart rate.
3. Sport-specific exercise	Running or skating drills. No head impact activities.	Add movement.
4. Non-contact training drills	Harder training drills, e.g., passing drills. May start progressive resistance training.	Exercise, coordination, and increased thinking.
5. Full contact practice	Following medical clearance, participate in normal training activities.	Restore confidence and assess functional skills by coaching staff.
6. Return to play/sport	Normal game play.	

There should be at least 24 hours (or longer) for each step of the progression. If any symptoms worsen while exercising, the athlete should go back to the previous step. Resistance training should be added only in the later stages (Stage 3 or 4 at the earliest). The athlete should not return to sport until the concussion symptoms have gone, they have successfully returned to full school/learning activities, and the healthcare professional has given the child written permission to return to sport.

If the child has symptoms for more than a month, they should ask to be referred to a healthcare professional who is an expert in the management of concussion.

Graduated Return to School Strategy

Concussion may affect the ability to learn at school. The child may need to miss a few days of school after a concussion, but the child's doctor should help them get back to school after a few days. When going back to school, some children may need to go back gradually and may need to have some changes made to their schedule so that concussion symptoms don't get a lot worse. If a particular activity makes symptoms a lot worse, then the child should stop that activity and rest until symptoms get better. To make sure that the child can get back to school without problems, it is important that the health care provider, parents/caregivers and teachers talk to each other so that everyone knows what the plan is for the child to go back to school.

Note: If mental activity does not cause any symptoms, the child may be able to return to school part-time without doing school activities at home first.

Mental Activity	Activity at each step	Goal of each step
1. Daily activities that do not give the child symptoms	Typical activities that the child does during the day as long as they do not increase symptoms (e.g. reading, texting, screen time). Start with 5-15 minutes at a time and gradually build up.	Gradual return to typical activities.
2. School activities	Homework, reading or other cognitive activities outside of the classroom.	Increase tolerance to cognitive work.
3. Return to school part-time	Gradual introduction of school-work. May need to start with a partial school day or with increased breaks during the day.	Increase academic activities.
4. Return to school full-time	Gradually progress school activities until a full day can be tolerated.	Return to full academic activities and catch up on missed work.

If the child continues to have symptoms with mental activity, some other things that can be done to help with return to school may include:

- Starting school later, only going for half days, or going only to certain classes
- More time to finish assignments/tests
- Quiet room to finish assignments/tests
- Not going to noisy areas like the cafeteria, assembly halls, sporting events, music class, shop class, etc.
- Taking lots of breaks during class, homework, tests
- No more than one exam/day
- Shorter assignments
- Repetition/memory cues
- Use of a student helper/tutor
- Reassurance from teachers that the child will be supported while getting better

The child should not go back to sports until they are back to school/learning, without symptoms getting significantly worse and no longer needing any changes to their schedule.