

Observation After Head Injury

The patient should be checked every two hours for the first 24 hours after the injury. If the patient is asleep, he or she should be awakened.

If any of the following signs are noticed, please call Health Services at (323-2206), or take the patient to the Emergency Room at Piedmont Medical Center (less than three miles away) as soon as possible. Piedmont Medical Center's number is 803-329-1234.

1. Unusually sleepy or hard to wake up.
2. Mentally confused. Does not know who or where he or she is. Does not recognize familiar people or places.
3. Very restless, disturbed or agitated. Being upset is normal after an accident but when a patient is very nervous and excited after having been quiet and calm, it is important to report it.
4. Nausea and vomiting, complaining of being "sick to my stomach" or throwing up.
5. Severe headache.
6. Unequal pupils. The pupil is the round darkest part, center of the eye. Normal pupils are the same size, report any difference in size.
7. Weakness of arms or legs.
8. Fits, seizures or convulsions.
9. Drainage of fluid from the ears or nose.

Guidelines For Care At Home After head Injury

1. The patient may move around and be up.
2. May eat a light diet.
3. No alcoholic beverages or any substance that may cause sedation.
4. If the patient takes medicine regularly ask the physician about taking these.
5. For mild headache, lie flat to ease headache.