Definition:
“a sudden trauma causing damage to the brain”. i

Subtypes:
- closed head injury (non-penetrating force) or penetrating head injury
- a focal injury (affect one area of the brain), or diffuse brain injury (affecting several areas)
- TBIs may also result in a secondary injury, caused by physiological disturbances and a disruption in the blood-brain barrier. ii

Possible Symptoms: iii, iv
- Physical effects: headaches, difficulty speaking or hearing, blurry eyesight, change in sense of taste or smell, dizziness or trouble with balance/coordination, inability to use certain motor functions
- Cognitive effects: difficulty concentrating, making decisions, or expressing oneself, aphasia (inability or difficulty finding the correct word)
- Behavioral effects: becoming angry and frustrated easily, acting without thinking

Cause of TBI:
- ~ 50% of TBIs result from accidents including “automobiles, motorcycles, bicycles, and pedestrians”.
- ~ 20% of TBIs result from violence, including “firearm assaults and child abuse”
- ~ 3% of TBIs result from participation in sports
- Alcohol use is a factor in 50% of cases of TBI i

Prevalence in the USA:
~1.7 million people are diagnosed with TBI per year

Suicide Risk Factors: v, vi
- For the first 6 years after the TBI, suicide attempt probability is 18.4%
- Post-TBI, patients with emotional/psychiatric disorders and substance use problems were 21 times more likely to have post-injury suicide attempts
- People with TBI have a fourfold higher risk of death than the general population
- Patients with a pre-injury and post-injury suicide attempt had a stronger intent to die at the post-injury attempt
- In 21% to 22% of those suffering from TBI, there’s increased risk of death by suicide, a higher frequency of attempts, and clinically significant suicidal ideation vii

References:


