

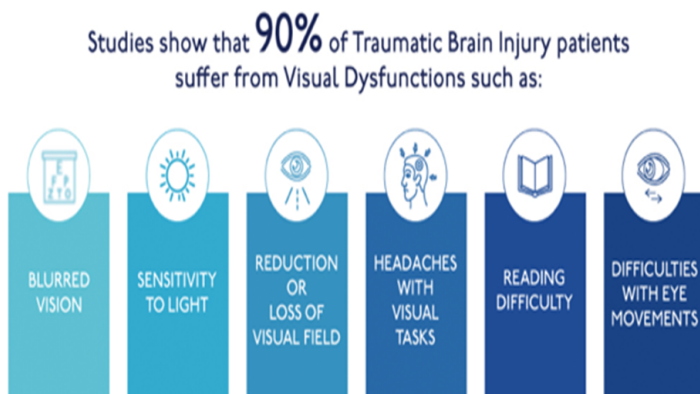


## Brain Injuries and Vision

**Acquired Brain Injury (ABI)** or **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)** are terms used to describe damage to the brain caused by force to the head. Examples are a motor vehicle accident, a fall, or contact sports. It can be the result of a medical condition such as a stroke, tumor, aneurysm, meningitis and cerebral palsy, or other neurological defects.

A brain injury can affect a person in many ways extending from physical limitations to changes in perception and cognition. It can heavily impact a person's ability to function in their daily lives. Impairments can affect speech, hearing, balance & visual processing.

### Visual Links to the brain



Over 10 million TBI's occur annually across the globe  
57 million people have been hospitalized with a TBI in their life time

Estimated 1.7 million people sustain a TBI each year  
75% of TBI's are a result from a **concussion** or other forms of **mild traumatic brain injury (MTBI)**

Following a brain injury, there is often an interruption between the eyes and the brain.

Individuals of all ages who have experienced some sort of neurological insult or injury and who are experiencing visual symptoms can benefit from a vision assessment from a Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation Optometrist, an eye care professional who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment/rehabilitation of neurological conditions adversely affecting the visual system.

When a person has an ABI, often one type of rehabilitation is not enough to address needs. An interdisciplinary, integrated team approach can play a vital role in the rehabilitation of patients with concussions, stroke or other neurological deficits. In addition to optometrists, rehabilitation team members may include nurses, physical and occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, physical medicine and rehab physicians, neurologists, neuropsychologists, audiologists, ophthalmologists, and others.

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#### References

ASSOCIATION, N.O.R.A. (2018, December). *ABOUT BRAIN INJURIES & VISION*. Retrieved from [www.noravisionrehab.org/patients-caregivers/about-brain-injuries-vision](http://www.noravisionrehab.org/patients-caregivers/about-brain-injuries-vision).