

Should I Pursue a Formal Brain Injury Diagnosis?

Why would I need to?

With milder brain injuries, symptoms can be less noticeable. Further assessment is often needed to get a brain injury diagnosis.

Injury severity (mild, moderate, severe) is different than a formal diagnosis.

With severe injuries there was usually a loss of consciousness and neuroimaging that showed brain injury. But with a mild injury, that is not always the case and then a neuropsychological assessment is required.

What is a neuropsychological assessment?

A neuropsychological assessment consists of a **variety of tests** designed to measure the damage caused by brain injury. It provides more information about your cognitive capabilities, or in other words your ability to **learn, think, reason, remember, solve problems, make decisions, and pay attention**.

What does a neuropsychologist do?

A neuropsychologist, who is a psychologist with a Ph.D. or Psy.D. credential and specialized training in brain-behavior relationships, conducts the evaluation.

What else should I expect during a neuropsychological assessment?

In addition to administering the assessment, the neuropsychologist will likely interview you, the survivor with the brain injury and your family members, study available hospital records, and review any other information that provides insight into what you were like before your injury.

What can I do with my results?

When you are given the results, they can help your rehab or hospital team guide their care. It can help give your family members an idea of the impact your injury had on you. Many times, the information they give can help with return to work and what to expect about your brain on a day-to-day basis. These results can also be utilized when applying for support such as Social Security Disability.

How can I get a neuropsychological assessment?

To receive a neuropsychological assessment, you will need a referral from your primary care provider. Prior to your appointment with your primary physician, schedule your Brain Injury Screening and Symptom Inventory with us by calling: (855) 866-1884 or emailing: info@ndbin.org.

To learn more about neuropsychologists in North Dakota, visit NDBIN's [resource directory](#).

Sources cited

Neuropsychological assessments. Brain Injury Association of America. (2022b, August 8).

<https://www.biausa.org>

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