

Whiplash Auto Accidents--What Damage can they REALLY do?

Centennial—The *Spine Research Institute of San Diego* reports that motor vehicle collisions are the single most important cause of brain injury, accounting for 67% of brain injuries, fatal or mild. Surprisingly, even in a low-speed collision, the head accelerates 250% faster than the car's acceleration. This can lead to very high accelerations of the brain itself, even if the head doesn't strike anything in the vehicle!

This phenomenon is labeled "mild traumatic brain injury" (MTBI). The injuries appear to be very minor. But 40-60% of people who sustain MTBI will suffer headaches.

Specialized scanning techniques, known as PET or SPECT scans, can be performed to document decreased blood flow to areas of the brain that are consistent with mild traumatic brain injury. The testing, however, is expensive, isn't routine and is paid for by the patient out-of-pocket before any settlement is usually reached.

The proof obtained in such a test can be very useful in making the case for a patient who has sustained ongoing problems with cognitive function, especially if the patient must make a change in their career.

Things I've personally seen show up during consultations include: can't remember things about their customer; can't keep track of the time of day; has trouble focusing; difficulty doing simple math that used to be easy for them; can't engineer the machinery solutions for customer's needs that they once could; dizziness; headaches.

The type of chiropractic adjustments used with our protocol can help get tension off of the brain tissue itself, improving function, if not restoring it. If you suspect you've sustained MTBI, call our office for a complimentary consultation.

Yours in Health, Dr. Erica