



DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT OF SPORTS-RELATED CONCUSSION IN YOUTH: THE ROLE OF THE CHILD NEUROLOGIST

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DIAGNOSTIC ISSUES

- Diagnosis is often *post hoc*
- Not all child neurologists are on the same playing field
- Pediatricians with limited facility in neurology
- Whose guidelines to use?
- Parents can over-interpret head bumps as concussion
- Are hits more important than concussion
(*Neurology* 2012;78:1777-84)

MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- Return to play guidelines clear?
- No symptoms at rest or with exertion, and off medication not always achievable in neurology clinic
- Strength of evidence that ongoing symptoms and signs are risk factors for more severe concussion
- Follow-up and clearance from neurologist or pediatrician?
- Validity of exercises, physical therapy, vestibular therapy sketchy



THE VIEW FROM STANFORD

- Role of computerized psychometrics unclear
- Physiology of concussion and other head trauma emerging
- Gender differences yet to be explored



