

RED FLAGS AFTER HEAD INJURY

When to go or return to the Emergency Department or your doctor

VOMITING

Children often vomit in the first 24 hours. Infants may have poor feeding. If your child has persistent vomiting or vomiting/poor feeding *with* a headache and/or drowsiness, they should see a doctor.

SEVERE HEADACHE

Although headaches are common after a head injury, a headache that is getting worse can be a sign to get checked out. This is particularly important if there is also vomiting, increasing drowsiness, or confusion.

DIZZINESS OR UNSTEADY WALKING

Dizziness is also common after a mild head injury but doesn't usually get worse over time. Worsening dizziness or difficulty walking is a reason to see your doctor.

DROWSINESS OR LACK OF RESPONSE

Many children feel sleepy after a head injury. You should still be able to wake your child fairly easily - this means similar to when you wake them from a deep sleep.

SEIZURE FIT/CONVULSION

If they occur, seizures usually occur immediately after a head injury. They do not indicate epilepsy but may be a sign of a more serious injury and you need to see a doctor.

CONFUSION OR NEUROLOGICAL SIGNS

Confusion, odd behaviour, or slurred speech could be a sign a more significant injury has occurred. These children should be seen by a doctor.

IF IN DOUBT, CALL 13 HEALTH
13 45 84