



Head Injury Protocol

Minor Bump to Head

A minor bump to the head is common in children, particularly those of infant school age. If a child is asymptomatic (i.e. there is no bruising, swelling, abrasion, mark of any kind, dizziness, headache, nausea or vomiting) and the child appears well, then the incident will be treated as a 'bump' rather than a 'head injury'.

Action to be taken by the Camp Manager for a 'Bump' to the head:

- Apply cold compress/ice pack. Complete full head scan for any bumps/knocks.
- If a child is asymptomatic, complete the accident form thoroughly, (noting down any old marks/scars) for parents and give the child a bumped head sticker
- Report to Group Leader
- Parent informed by phone call of incident as soon as possible, and assured child is fine but will be monitored and any change notified. If any marks on head are identified during full head scan that child says are old, highlight on the call
- Group Leader to observe - if the child begins to display Minor Head injury symptoms, follow the Actions to be taken detailed below (if unsure, always consult the office).

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Minor Head Injury – no loss of consciousness

A minor head injury often just causes bumps, swellings or bruises on the exterior of the head.

Other symptoms include:

- Nausea
- Mild headache
- Tender bruising or mild swelling of the scalp
- Mild dizziness

Action to be taken in camp/class for a 'Minor Head Injury':

- Ice pack/cold compress to swelling
- Observation
- Give the child a bumped head sticker
- Accident form to be completed
- Report to Group Leader
- Parent informed by phone call of incident as soon as possible, if showing signs of nausea or a headache, parent advised to collect.

Severe Head Injury – loss of consciousness.

A severe head injury will usually be indicated by one or more of the following symptoms:

- Unconsciousness briefly or longer
- Difficulty in staying awake
- Seizure
- Slurred speech
- Visual problems
- Difficulty in understanding what people are saying
- Balance problems
- Loss of power in arms/legs/feet
- Pins & needles
- Amnesia
- Leakage of clear fluid from nose or ears
- Bruising around eyes/behind ears

Action to be taken by the Camp Manager:

- **Suspect there is a neck injury if unconscious and do not move the child**

- **CALL 999 FOR AMBULANCE**
- **Notify parent by phone**
- **Complete accident form**