

## Classification of TBI Severity

(If a patient meets criteria in more than one category of severity, the higher severity level is assigned)

Criteria	Mild	Moderate	Severe
<b>Structural imaging</b>	Normal	Normal or abnormal	Normal or abnormal
<b>Loss of Consciousness (LOC)</b>	0-30 min	>30 min and <24 hours	>24 hours
<b>Alteration of consciousness/ mental state (AOC)<sup>1</sup></b>	up to 24 hours	>24 hours; severity based on other criteria	
<b>Posttraumatic amnesia (PTA)</b>	0-1 day	>1 and <7 days	>7 days
<b>Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) (best available score in first 24 hours)<sup>2</sup></b>	13-15	9-12	<9

<sup>1</sup>Alteration of mental status must be immediately related to the trauma to the head. Typical symptoms would be: looking and feeling dazed and uncertain of what is happening, confusion, difficulty thinking clearly or responding appropriately to mental status questions, and being unable to describe events immediately before or after the trauma event.

<sup>2</sup>In April 2015, the DoD released a memorandum recommending against the use of GCS scores to diagnose TBI. See the memorandum for additional information. Department of Defense Instruction. DoD policy guidance for management of mild traumatic brain injury/concussion in the deployed setting. 6490.11: Department of Defense; September 18, 2012. Updated April 2015

Source: <https://www.healthquality.va.gov/>

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