

What Factors Affect Outcomes After a Brain Injury?

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Video Link: <http://www.brainline.org/content/multimedia.php?id=3262>

Dr. Jane Gillett: In terms of the factors that affect outcome, there's injury severity, and usually that means if you or your child was injured and you have what's called a Glasgow Coma Scale which is a measure of how deeply comatose you are. With a Glasgow Coma Scale of 8 or less, you can't get any lower than 3, by the way of the Glasgow Coma Scale because then you're dead. So, a Glasgow Coma Scale of 3, you're pretty deeply in a Coma. And children and adults with Glasgow Coma Scale of 3 and stay at a very low level for a long period of time tend not to do as well because it's an indication that they have had more brain damage and more areas of the brain are injured.

Other factors include; other co-morbid medical problems that can occur like depression, seizures, and hormonal problems. Then one of the key factors is as well is the family and friends being able to interact and support that person, how well the community adapting and supporting the person, and then how well can the person with the brain injury end up feeling good about themselves and happy that they are doing something that is meaningful to them, meaningful to society and feeling they they're loved and that they have someone to love them. I think when you have that, you tend to be successful.