

CAN SEATBELTS AND AIRBAGS PREVENT A BRAIN INJURY?

“Automobile, motorcycle and commercial truck accidents are among the leading causes of brain injuries in the United States.”



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Automobile, motorcycle and commercial truck accidents are among the leading causes of brain injuries in the United States. During a car accident, drivers and/or passengers can hit their heads on the steering wheel, windshield or doorframe. In a motorcycle collision, riders are frequently thrown from the bike and strike their heads against the hard pavement or other objects in the area. Any blow to the head causes the brain to move violently in the skull. This is the common cause of a brain injury.

Brain injuries should be taken very seriously. Even mild brain injuries can result in permanent, life-altering medical conditions that victims and their families must cope with for the rest of the victim's life. Traumatic brain injuries (TBI) require

extensive, on-going medical and personal care. The tragic reality is that many brain injuries could have been prevented or mitigated by the use of seatbelts and airbags.

WHY ARE THERE SO MANY BRAIN INJURIES IN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENTS?

There are two types of brain injuries: penetrating brain injuries and closed brain injuries. Penetrating brain injuries occur when an object pierces the skull and enters the soft brain tissue. The damage caused by a penetrating brain injury depends upon where the object penetrates the skull. People automatically assume an open wound injury is more serious than a closed injury. While a penetrating brain injury can be very grave, a closed brain injury can be equally or more severe. Closed brain injuries are more common in vehicle accidents and, unfortunately, they are more difficult to detect.

A closed head injury occurs when the victim's head hits an object as the car is struck by another vehicle. The blunt trauma to the head causes the brain to move within the skull. This sudden, violent movement can cause contusions (bruising of brain tissue), brain hemorrhages (bleeding within the brain), and/or damage to the nerve tracts and neurons that send messages from the brain to the rest of the body.

Whiplash, a common accident injury caused by a sudden distortion of the neck, can also result in damage to the delicate tissues within the brain. Any movement that causes the head to whip around in a violent manner and throws the brain against the skull can cause bleeding and bruising at the sites of impact. This type of brain



damage can be widespread because the brain is “bouncing” around in the skull before it settles back into place. Whiplash can damage the brain in the same way as an object striking the head.

PREVENTING BRAIN DAMAGE BY USING SEATBELTS AND AIRBAGS

Seatbelts are one of the most effective ways of reducing injuries and fatalities in automobile accidents. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that when used together, airbags and seatbelts are 75%

effective in preventing brain injury in an automobile accident. According to a study by the Centers for Disease Control, a person riding in a vehicle without a seatbelt is 8.4 times more likely to sustain a head injury during an accident as compared to a person who is wearing a seatbelt.

Airbags are designed to reduce fatality and injury by cushioning the body and absorbing the impact during an accident. Airbags help prevent the head from striking the steering wheel and windshield or the doorframe (i.e. side airbags) upon impact. While airbags are effective, they should be used in combination with

seatbelts to avoid injury from the expanding airbags. Together, seatbelts and airbags reduce the risk of brain injury.

PERMANENT DAMAGE CAUSED BY SEVERE BRAIN INJURY

Brain injury, even a mild one, can result in permanent physical, cognitive and behavioral changes that can affect the victim for the rest of his or her life. A traumatic brain injury can leave a victim unable to care for him or herself and



needing long-term personal and medical care. In addition to the physical and emotional burdens of brain damage, the victim and his or her family must also cope with the related financial burdens. Medical care for a traumatic brain injury can

cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. In addition, a brain injury victim may not be able to return to the same job, or may not be able to return to work at all.

If you or a loved one has suffered a brain injury, you are entitled to compensation from the negligent party who caused the accident. I can help you recover the damages you are entitled to receive for current and future medical costs, loss of earnings and pain and suffering. A monetary award will never replace what a reckless driver has taken from you, but it can bring you justice.

CONTACT AN EXPERIENCED LONG BEACH AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT ATTORNEY TO ASSIST WITH YOUR CLAIM

YOUR INJURIES ARE PERSONAL TO ME

My law practice exclusively represents personal injury victims and does so with a deep understanding of their suffering and an absolute commitment to their recovery. I take your injuries personally, and that is why I directly handle all aspects of every case to ensure you receive maximum compensation.

Call the Law Office of Michael D. Waks at [888-394-1174](tel:888-394-1174) or use the convenient online [contact form](#) to schedule a free consultation. You are under no obligation and you will never pay any money unless you recover damages for your injuries.

I offer bilingual services as part of my comprehensive approach to legal representation and I am available 24/7 to talk to you about your case.

About the Author



Michael D. Waks

Personal injury victims need someone who understands their pain, who is invested in them and will guide them through the complicated maze of their medical and legal worries. They need an attorney who cares about them and their families.

My name is Michael Waks and I am a personal injury attorney in the Los Angeles Area focused on the needs of people who have suffered because of someone else's actions.

While still attending Southwestern University School of Law, I clerked for a big defense law firm that represented manufacturers of asbestos. I read the files and met the people whose lives were ruined by asbestos and I knew, for the rest of my career, I wanted to help people like them: the victims, not the perpetrators.

I have been doing just that for over 30 years. As soon as I passed the Bar I opened the Law Office of Michael D. Waks in Long Beach and began exclusively representing seriously injured accident victims. I decided to be a sole practitioner so I could handle every case personally. I understand clients are different and that in the wake of an accident their suffering will be unique, ranging from physical and financial to emotional.

I tell my clients from the start, "I want you to only worry about one thing, and that is to do exactly what your doctor tells you in order to get better. Leave the rest to me."

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