

TBI Compared to Other Disabilities

Characteristics	TBI	Autism	Learning Disability	Emotional Disturbance	ADHD
Sudden onset	X				
Previous successful functioning at a higher level	X				
Prior self-image as “normal,” loss of sense of self	X				
Medical complications and fatigue are common	X				
Previously learned information can assist in re-acquiring skills	X				
Problems generalizing new information	X	X	X		
Inconsistent patterns of performance	X	X	X	X	
Memory Difficulties	X	X	X	X	
Compromised self-awareness and difficulty recognizing difficulties	X	X		X	X
Extreme difficulties with self-regulation	X	X		X	X
Difficulty building or maintaining interpersonal relationships	X	X		X	X
Inappropriate behavior in normal circumstances	X	X		X	X
Poor judgment and loss of emotional control	X	X	X	X	X
Slower pace of skill acquisition	X	X	X	X	X
Family experience of grief	X	X	X	X	X

Unique to TBI	Shared by Some	Shared by all
---------------	----------------	---------------