



**Acquired  
Brain Injury  
Network**

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Hilton Toronto • Toronto

### **Conference Presentation Abstract ~ Podium Presentation**

**Date/Time/Room:** Tuesday, November 4, 2008 1:00 pm – 1:45 pm Toronto I / II

**Abstract ID:** 7a

**Title:**

**Development of a Classification for Catastrophic Brain Impairment: Results of an Evidence Based Review and Expert Consensus Panel**

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**Summary:**

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) affects people of all ages and is the leading cause of long-term disability. However, the classification of brain impairment and its relationship to the predictability of long-term outcomes has come under scrutiny from consumers, government, health care providers and third party insurance payors. In response to a need to classify catastrophic brain impairment, the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation supported this initiative to conduct a scientific literature search and convene an expert consensus panel on brain impairment. The expert consensus panel consisted of a balance across the continuum including acute, rehabilitation and community health care providers in the field of brain impairment.

At an initial conference, experts identified assessment tools that could potentially be used to classify catastrophic traumatic brain impairment for adults older than 21 years of age. Then, a relevant evidence based literature search provided detailed information about the reliability, validity for each measure and was prepared for the panel for their reference. In the second conference, the experts reviewed the evidence and a modified Delphi voting technique was used to arrive at a consensus on a set of evidence based measures that could be used to classify catastrophic brain impairment.

Results of this initiative show that the Glasgow Coma Scale, CT Scanning, Somatosensory Evoked Potentials, Duration of Post Traumatic Amnesia and the Disability Rating Scale can be used to classify brain impairment. This presentation will review the methods and recommendations of the expert consensus panel regarding the measures and timing of using the measures.

**Outcomes/Objectives:**

The outcome of the consensus conference include the Evidence Based Classification of Brain Impairment: Application to Catastrophic Impairment Classification report which provides an evaluation framework based on best evidence to assist in predicting future care needs after traumatic brain injury for adults older than 21 years of age. This report provides an overview of a detailed scientific literature search for effective measures for classifying brain impairment and presents the conclusions and recommendations of an expert consensus panel regarding the measures and timing of using the measures.