

Seeking treatment for the effects of TBI

Owen: My vehicle was hit by an IED. I was launched from my seat into the ceiling of the vehicle, and I broke open a three quarter inch steel hatch with my head. I was knocked unconscious, I don't remember the blast, I don't remember a lot of anything except for waking up and my face was on the windshield cause I was hunched forward and there was just flames shooting onto the windshield.

Honestly, I never knew anything was wrong with me until I actually came home. I couldn't speak right, I didn't know why. I couldn't communicate well, I didn't know why. Everything seemed out of place. I couldn't function very well. What I didn't know, when I couldn't speak very well, is because I have a traumatic brain injury that effects my speech. I couldn't communicate well because, I have attention deficit due to my brain injury, I have balance problems due to my brain injury. Memory due to my brain injury, and it wasn't until a friend of mine who happens to be a Veteran's Service Officer, he goes, "maybe you should, go get checked out." Go ask them to see if you have a TBI. I was like, What's a TBI? He told me and sure enough I go to the VA here in Minneapolis and yep, I got one.



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