



Contact
Us



Careers



Subscribe

MyChart

News

Become a
Patient

Donate



Why
Shepherd
Center?

Patient
Programs

About

Admissions

Education

Research

Support
Us



[Home](#) › [Patient Programs](#) › [Brain Injury](#) › [Learn About Brain Injury](#) › [Anoxic and Hypoxic Brain Injuries](#)

Anoxic Brain Injury and Hypoxic Brain Injury

What are anoxic brain injuries and hypoxic brain injuries?

Brain Injury

[Learn About Brain Injury](#)

[Anoxic and Hypoxic Brain Injuries](#)

[Brain Injury Prevention](#)

[Brain Injury Causes](#)

[Tips For Caregivers](#)

[Choosing a Rehabilitation Program](#)

[Inpatient Rehabilitation](#)

[Disorders of Consciousness Program](#)

Unlike traumatic brain injuries, in which brain damage is induced by direct physical trauma, anoxic brain injuries

and hypoxic brain injuries are characterized by brain damage from a lack of oxygen to the brain. These brain injuries are commonly associated with [strokes](#), although strokes are not the only cause of this type of brain damage.

Become a Patient

What Is an Anoxic Brain Injury?

- › **Anoxic brain injuries** are caused by a complete lack of oxygen to the brain, which results in the death of brain cells after approximately four minutes of oxygen deprivation.

What Is a Hypoxic Brain Injury?

- › **Hypoxic brain injuries** are brain injuries that form due to a restriction on the oxygen being supplied to the brain. The restricted flow of oxygen causes the gradual death and impairment of brain cells.

Causes of Anoxic Brain Injuries and Hypoxic Brain Injuries

- › **Hypoxicischemic injury**, also known as stagnant anoxia, may:
 - › occur when oxygen-carrying blood cannot reach the brain, resulting in oxygen deprivation.
 - › be caused by [strokes](#), but can also be caused by other pulmonary conditions, such as cardiac arrest or cardiac arrhythmia.
- › **Anemic anoxia**: Anemic anoxia occurs when the blood cannot properly carry enough oxygen or if there is not enough blood in the body itself to support the oxygen needs of the brain (i.e., lack of oxygen to the brain).
- › **Toxic anoxia**: Toxic anoxia occurs when chemicals or poisons hinder the ability of the

brain to receive oxygen from blood cells.

- › **Anoxic anoxia:** Anoxic anoxia is caused by the lack of oxygen in the air, resulting in suffocation.



Call our Admissions Department at 404-350-7345 to learn about becoming a patient at Shepherd Center.

Become a Patient

Lack of Oxygen to the Brain Symptoms

Anoxic brain injuries and hypoxic brain injuries often cause an initial loss of consciousness, which can be short-term or long-term, depending on the severity and length of oxygen deprivation. Initial loss of consciousness may result in a comatose state. Other anoxic or hypoxic brain injury symptoms may include slurring and difficulties with speech, confusion, disorientation, or facial drooping.

Upon regaining consciousness, the effects and symptoms are often similar to that of a traumatic brain injury, depending on severity of the injury. More severe anoxic or hypoxic brain damage may leave the patient in a vegetative state. **The effects of an anoxic brain injury may include:**

- › headache
- › difficulty coordinating balance
- › vision problems
- › seizures
- › changes in sensory perception
- › trouble speaking and swallowing
- › changes in sleep pattern
- › lack of bowel and bladder control
- › changes in sexual function
- › difficulty forming sentences
- › confusion
- › trouble communicating
- › difficulty with reason, focus and logic
- › memory impairments
- › depression
- › poor concentration
- › mood swings
- › limited attention span

- › motor impairment
- › personality changes
- › disorientation
- › forgetfulness
- › acting inappropriately

Prognosis of Anoxic Brain Injuries or Hypoxic Brain Injuries

Projecting the recovery and care for anoxic brain injuries or hypoxic brain injuries is difficult because each case is unique. A full recovery from severe anoxic or hypoxic brain injury is rare, but many patients with mild anoxic or hypoxic brain injuries are capable of making a full or partial recovery. Furthermore, symptoms and effects of the injury are dependent on the area(s) of the brain that was affected by the lack of oxygen.

Anoxia and Hypoxia Treatment

The overall life expectancy for patients with anoxic brain injuries or hypoxic brain injuries can vary based on the severity of the brain damage from lack of oxygen and is something that should be discussed with a patient's physician. Reach out to Shepherd Center today to discuss treatment options for anoxia or hypoxia and learn about our specialists now.

Meet Our ABI Specialists



Need help identifying the right brain injury rehabilitation center? Discover if Shepherd Center is right for you or your loved one.

Learn More About Shepherd

FIND US

Shepherd Center
2020 Peachtree Road
NW
Atlanta, GA 30309-1465
404-352-2020
Get Directions

CONNECT WITH US

Latest News
Volunteer
Employment
Opportunities
About Us
Contact Us

FOLLOW US

Joint Commission

CARF