

GLUCKSTEIN & ASSOCIATES LLP

P E R S O N A L I N J U R Y L A W Y E R S

E News

Summer 2007



Brain
Injury
Awareness
Month
2007

Comments

FROM THE **COMA** Conference

This past June, **GLUCKSTEIN & ASSOCIATES LLP** launched **Brain Injury Awareness Month 2007** with a conference: "**Is COMA Treatable?**"

Based on all the evaluations, thank-you notes and letters received, we have discovered that the audience thought the event was a **tremendous learning experience**.

Even more significant, many others commented that the **encounter** with **Dr. Dimancescu** and **Dr. Connolly** will change their clinical practice.

Many of us take for granted the present medical treatment for people in coma. People like **Dr. Connolly** and **Dr. Dimancescu** will be among the **architects** to set the standard for **new and innovative techniques**.



PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

Click here:

www.gluckstein.com/SlideShow2.html



COMA Conference **Comments**, see Page 3

COMA Conference Attendees'
Comments

// **Very enlightening.**

This information gives us **reason for hope** as well as concrete steps to take in the rehab process.

inspirational
engaging speakers

Both humorous and passionate about their areas of study; especially since there are not always immediate results to their work.
Amazingly patient and enduring men.

Very **exciting** to learn about the latest research from those at the **top of their field.**

Very informative to healthcare professionals. Presenters captured audience's attention.

passionate

Deeply touched and humbled by combination of **heart, intelligence and excellence.**

truly motivational

Excellent material. Very pertinent to my work.

Opportunity to **meet and network** with many professionals. Excellent topics. Looking forward to next conference. //

■ G+A



When spinal
cord injury
and brain injury

occur at the same time,

does this affect recovery?

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If you were to compare the events that occur before a spinal cord injury and a traumatic brain injury, you would find that they are quite similar.

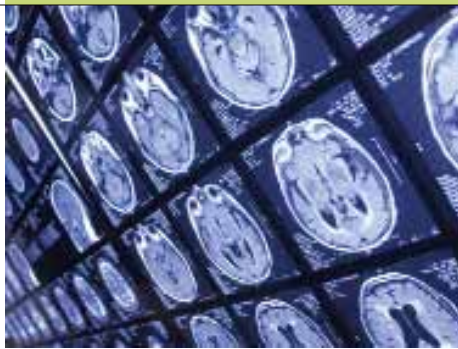
For example, a motor vehicle accident, a bad fall, or sports injuries, all have similar effects on the body. It should not be surprising then, that up to 50% of survivors of cervical spinal cord

injuries have also experienced a form of traumatic brain injury.

At first, the brain injury can often be overlooked due to the devastating and obvious physical display of an individual with a spinal cord injury. When all energy is focused on treating the obvious physical injury, it is easy to miss the signs of a brain injury.

Why is this problematic?

A person who has experienced a brain injury may have motor and sensory



early investigation

If the signs related to brain injury are not identified early, the recovery process can slow, resulting in smaller gains

difficulties, and/or problems with arousal and attention, memory, perception, executive functions and language. However, the brain injury may first present itself when an individual demonstrates a lack of involvement, an inability, or a resistance to carry out activities. Unfortunately, these behaviours are sometimes misinterpreted as an emotional reaction to the physical injuries or misinterpreted as laziness or disinterest.

Does that affect recovery?

If the signs that are related to brain injury are not identified early, there is a possibility that the recovery process would slow and activity within the community would come to a halt.

It follows then, that it is essential that providers of care for the individual with a spinal cord injury become acquainted with the symptoms and the behaviours associated with brain injury so that early investigation can take place.

Spinal cord injury in and of itself can be a devastating and challenging condition. This condition can often result in severe

physical and emotional limitations. When a spinal cord injury is combined with a brain injury, the affect on an individual can be magnified which means that recovery can be difficult – resulting in smaller gains and less involvement in the community. However, if identified properly, the symptoms of brain injury can be treated with either medication, some form of psychological treatment and/or other effective strategies.

The Next Step

It is important to acknowledge the fact that both a spinal cord injury as well as a brain injury can happen at the same time. The goal is to educate all providers of care and inform the individuals living with spinal cord injuries, of the possibility of also having additional problems that could be related to a brain injury. It makes sense then that certain assessments be administered early enough to identify the signs and the behaviours that are related to brain injury. If the brain injury is identified then appropriate measures can be taken to maximize the potential for recovery, engagement and activity within their community. ■ G+A

REFERENCES

Various Authors, (2003), Topics in Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation:
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?CMD=Display&DB=pubmed>



TEAM CANADA




Team picture taken in Stockholm

Greetings from Stockholm



To my friends,



FIRST OFF, THIS picture says it all: "Bernie needs to come with me to the next world championships [June in Italy] so that some proper pictures can be taken".

This was my first international Team Canada event and was a huge success. Next follows a whole wack of tournaments leading up to Italy in May or June. Then Beijing.

The Quad team of Sarah and I [Sarah's right next to me in the pic], did quite well. We tied for 5th place. Essentially we had a very tough draw playing the second team in the world and ending up

in consolations right away. But for our first big tournament together, everyone was very impressed. The highlight was crushing a very strong team from Japan!

The big news for me is that I have decided to start playing tennis in a power wheelchair. In my division, I play against very functional quads and I consistently am the person with the most impairment at tournaments. Heart and Spirit can only get me so far. Now I need speed which I will get playing in a power chair. This is the right move to get me to Beijing and to get me a gold medal.

Talk to you soon, *Adrian*

Events

Full details for all upcoming events can be found at:
www.gluckstein.com



Litigating Catastrophic Disability and Damages

17, 18 September 2007

Toronto, Ontario

TOPICS: Challenges associated with litigating and defending catastrophic disability claims.

Motor Vehicle Accident Litigation

25, 26 September, 2007

Toronto, Ontario

Learn about the latest cases and strategies from leading personal injury lawyers, insurance counsel and medical experts.

WEB SITE: <http://www.canadianinstitute.com>

15th Interurban Spinal Cord Injury Conference

"Research To Reality"

Hamilton, Ontario

25, 26 October 2007

TOPICS: Living with Chronic Health Issues, Neurological Repair and Recovery, Motivating Clients, Alternative Health Modalities, and more.

INFORMATION:

<http://www.spinalcordinterurban.org>

Coming Together: Quilting the Pieces After Brain Injury

Provincial A.B.I Conference

25, 26 October 2007

Kitchener, Ontario

TOPIC: Providing the many and diverse pieces which together can have a significant role in the recovery and living with an ABI.

WEB SITE: <http://www.obia.on.ca>

Celebrate 70 years of putting people back on their feet...

Steppin' Up

25 October, 2007

Palais Royale, Toronto



St. John's Rehab Hospital presents Steppin' Up ... in support of rehabilitation that gives ordinary people back their lives following traumatic injuries, burns, cancer, strokes, amputations, organ transplants, cardiac surgery and orthopaedic surgery.

INFO: http://www.stjohnsrehab.com/fnd_abt.htm

Annual Compassion Fatigue Seminar & Workshop

Trauma & Compassion Fatigue

30 October, 2007

Marriott Hotel, Eaton Centre

8:30am to 4:30pm

This seminar and workshop is sponsored by Gluckstein & Associates LLP, Personal Injury Lawyers, in collaboration with representatives from The Hospital for Sick Children, St. Michael's Hospital and Bloorview Kids Rehab.

SPONSOR LINK:

www.compassionfatigueseminar.com/sponsor.htm

INFORMATION:

www.compassionfatigueseminar.com

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