



Project Number: 99280

Full Name of Project: Assessment and management of impaired consciousness and agitation in children with moderate to severe traumatic brain injuries

Principal Researcher: Dr Sarah Knight, Senior Research officer

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Dear Health Professional,

Thank you for taking the time to read this participant information statement. We would like to invite you to participate in a research project, outlined below.

This letter gives you more information about the survey. Taking part in the survey is up to you. You can say no if you want to.

This form is 3 pages long. Please make sure that you have all of the pages.

### **What is the project about?**

We are inviting you to take part in a survey about current approaches to assessing and managing impaired consciousness and agitation for children and adolescents with moderate to severe traumatic brain injuries (TBIs). This project focuses on assessment and management of impaired consciousness and agitation in the early stages following paediatric TBI, from hospital admission to discharge from inpatient rehabilitation. This includes during intensive care, acute medical care, and inpatient rehabilitation.

### **What is the issue?**

TBI is a leading cause of disability and death in children worldwide. Depending on the severity of TBI, children may experience a loss of consciousness, and they typically go through an early stage of recovery characterised by altered consciousness, confusion, disorientation, agitation, and memory difficulties. During this early stage of recovery, these children may be supported by intensive care, acute medical, or inpatient rehabilitation teams.

Impaired consciousness and agitation can impact children's recovery and engagement in health care following TBI, and agitation poses challenges and safety risks to the patient, family, and health professionals. Accurately identifying, measuring, and treating impaired consciousness and

agitation during paediatric TBI recovery is therefore essential. However, little is known about current approaches to assessing and managing impaired consciousness and agitation in the early stages of children's recovery following TBI. We ask you to complete this survey to help us better understand the current clinical practices used in Australia and New Zealand.

### **Why am I being asked to take part?**

You are being asked to complete this survey because you are a health professional who works with children and adolescents experiencing agitation with moderate to severe TBIs within the early stages post-TBI (i.e., from initial hospital admission to discharge from inpatient rehabilitation).

The survey is being undertaken in Australia and New Zealand and is open to health professionals currently working with children and adolescents (0-18 years) with moderate and severe TBIs in intensive care, acute medical care, or inpatient rehabilitation. This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, allied health professionals (e.g., psychologists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech pathologists), music therapists, and education consultants.

This survey contributes to a broader program of research, the ABI Translation Project. This project is funded by The Royal Children's Hospital Foundation. The findings of this project may help to improve the care that children and adolescents with brain injuries receive in hospital in the future.

### **What you will be asked to do**

The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. You will be asked to provide information about your background, experience, and work context. You will then be asked to answer questions about how you assess and manage agitation in children and adolescents with moderate to severe TBI. This includes multiple-choice and open-ended questions.

### **What if I wish to withdraw from the research project?**

You can withdraw from the project at any time.

### **What we will do with this information**

Any information we collect from you that can identify you will be treated as confidential. Your information will be stored on a password-protected computer database for a minimum of 5 years post study closure.

The following people may access information collected as part of this research project:

- The research team involved with this project
- The Royal Children's Hospital Human Research Ethics Committee

This information will help us to understand current approaches to assessing and managing impaired consciousness and agitation the early stages following paediatric TBI. Having this information will help us to develop interventions and strategies to support health professionals to implement evidence-based approaches to assessing and managing impaired consciousness and agitation for children and adolescents recovering from TBI.

Results may be presented at conferences or seminars or published in professional journals. When we write or talk about the results of this project, we will report information about the whole

group of participants. This means that no one will be able to identify you. If participant responses are used for educational purposes (e.g., educating other clinicians about assessing and managing agitation, presentations at professional conferences), these will be de-identified.

### Next steps

If you consent to participate in this project, you can access and complete the survey on REDCap via the following link: <https://redcap.link/vwbi3qx4>

If you have any questions about the project, you can contact Taylor Jenkin on (03) 9936 6455. You can also email them at [taylor.jenkin@mcri.edu.au](mailto:taylor.jenkin@mcri.edu.au).

Thank you very much for your time.

Yours sincerely



Dr Sarah Knight  
Senior Research Officer  
Neurodisability & Rehabilitation  
Murdoch Children's Research Institute

Dr Taylor Jenkin  
Project Coordinator  
Neurodisability & Rehabilitation  
Murdoch Children's Research Institute

You can contact the Director of Research Operations at The Royal Children's Hospital if you:

- have any concerns or complaints about the project
- are worried about your rights as a research participant
- would like to speak to someone independent of the project.

The Director can be contacted by telephone on (03) 9345 5044.