

Can omega-3 intake aid in concussion recovery?

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The treatment of concussions and traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a clinical challenge. Clinical studies thus far have failed to identify an effective treatment strategy when a combination of targets controlling aspects of neuroprotection, neuroinflammation, and neuroregeneration is needed. According to emerging science and clinical experience, aggressive intake of omega-3 fatty acids (n-3FA) seems to be beneficial to TBI, concussion, and post-concussion syndrome patients. This research is presented in *Concussions, Traumatic Brain Injury, and the Innovative Use of Omega-3s*, a review article from the *Journal of the American College of Nutrition*, official publication of the American College of Nutrition.

Research suggests that early and optimal doses of [omega-3 fatty acids](#) (n-3FA) have the potential to improve outcomes from [traumatic brain injury](#). The article reviews preclinical research and cites three brain injury case studies that resulted from a mining accident, a [motor vehicle accident](#), and a drowning accident. Each instance showcased evidence of safety and tolerability, wherein the patients who sustained life-threatening brain injuries recovered brain health with the aid of omega-3 fatty acids (n-3FA).

Growing [clinical experience](#) by numerous providers is that the brain needs to be saturated with high doses of n-3FA in order for the brain to have the opportunity to heal. Without an optimal supply of omegas, healing is less likely to happen. It is well recognized that n-3FAs are not a drug and not a cure and every situation is different. Clinically, some patients respond better than others. However, there is no downside to providing optimal levels of nutrition in order to give a patient the best opportunity to regain as much function as possible following a TBI.

Article author Michael D. Lewis, a retired Army Colonel and physician, is the author of the highly

anticipated book, *When Brains Collide: What Every Athlete and Parent Should Know About the Prevention and Treatment of Concussions and TBI*, that will be available on Amazon in September 2016. Dr. Lewis concludes, "n-3FA should be considered mainstream, conventional medicine, if [conventional medicine](#) can overcome its inherent bias against nutritional, nonpharmacological therapies."

More information: Michael D. Lewis. *Concussions, Traumatic Brain Injury, and the Innovative Use of Omega-3s*, *Journal of the American College of Nutrition* (2016). [DOI: 10.1080/07315724.2016.1150796](#)

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