

Brain Bleed Symptoms After a Car Accident

Our experienced Pittsburgh attorneys fight to help the injured get justice

Not all [car accident](#) injuries are immediately visible, and brain bleeds are among the most dangerous conditions that can go unnoticed in the hours or days following a crash. The initial shock and adrenaline can mask symptoms, leading many victims to believe they escaped without serious harm – only for severe complications to emerge later.

Even at lower speeds, the force of impact can cause the brain to strike the inside of the skull, leading to internal bleeding, swelling, and potentially life-threatening pressure buildup. While some symptoms appear right away, others develop gradually, making early recognition and medical evaluation vital.

For car accident victims in Pittsburgh, understanding the warning signs of a brain bleed, the importance of prompt medical care, and the legal options available can make all the difference. Beyond the medical challenges, victims often face financial hardships from hospital bills, lost wages, and long-term rehabilitation. When another driver's negligence causes a serious injury, holding them accountable is how victims secure the full compensation needed for recovery.

Understanding traumatic brain injuries (TBIs)

Brain injuries are among the most devastating consequences of a car accident. While some may be mild, others – such as brain bleeds – can be fatal if not detected and treated in time. The severity of the injury depends on the type of trauma the brain endures during impact. Some of the most serious brain injuries caused by car crashes include:

- **Concussions:** A mild form of brain trauma that can still lead to cognitive issues, headaches, and memory problems.
- **Contusions:** A bruise on the brain that can cause swelling and pressure buildup, potentially requiring surgery.
- **Diffuse axonal injury (DAI):** A widespread brain injury caused by rapid acceleration and deceleration, leading to extensive damage and loss of function.
- **Intracranial hemorrhage (brain bleed):** Internal bleeding inside or around the brain, which can quickly become life-threatening.

Some brain injuries require immediate surgery, while others can worsen over time if left untreated. After an accident, victims should never assume they are fine – it's important to get checked by a doctor as soon as possible.

Recognizing symptoms of brain bleeds after a car accident

Some symptoms appear right away and indicate a potential brain injury that requires urgent medical attention. Immediately after a crash, victims should be alert for any of the following signs:

- **Loss of consciousness, even for a brief moment:** A temporary blackout, however short, could signal brain trauma.
- **Severe or worsening headache:** A persistent headache that intensifies over time may indicate pressure buildup inside the skull.
- **Nausea or vomiting:** Frequent vomiting, especially in the absence of other stomach-related issues, could be a neurological response to brain trauma.
- **Confusion, disorientation, or difficulty speaking:** Trouble understanding conversations, responding to questions, or recalling details of the crash may suggest cognitive impairment.
- **Blurred vision or dizziness:** Changes in vision, sudden dizziness, or balance problems can be early indicators of brain swelling.
- **Weakness or numbness in the arms or legs:** Loss of sensation or difficulty moving limbs may point to damage in areas of the brain responsible for motor function.

Even if a victim feels well enough to go home after the accident, they should not ignore signs of dizziness, headaches, or confusion. Seeking medical attention as soon as possible can help detect a brain bleed before it worsens.

However, not all brain bleeds present immediate symptoms. In some cases, the injury progresses over time as bleeding continues and pressure inside the skull increases. A person who seemed fine shortly after the accident may begin to experience concerning symptoms later, including:

- **Memory loss or difficulty concentrating:** Trouble remembering details, struggling to focus, or feeling mentally “foggy” can indicate brain function impairment.
- **Mood swings, depression, or increased irritability:** Sudden emotional changes, such as extreme sadness or anger, can be linked to neurological damage.
- **Sleep disturbances, including excessive drowsiness or insomnia:** Some brain injury victims experience overwhelming fatigue, while others struggle to sleep.
- **Slurred speech or trouble understanding conversations:** Difficulty forming words or processing language can be a sign of cognitive decline due to a brain bleed.
- **Seizures or coordination problems:** New or unexplained seizures, loss of balance, or trouble walking may suggest severe brain trauma.

These delayed symptoms may not seem alarming at first but can quickly escalate if the brain bleed worsens. Family members and friends should pay close attention to accident victims in the days following a crash, as victims themselves may not always recognize the changes in their behavior, memory, or coordination. If any of these symptoms appear – even if they seem mild – it’s necessary to see a doctor immediately.

Importance of prompt medical evaluation

Brain bleeds can quickly turn fatal if left untreated. When bleeding occurs inside the skull, pressure builds up, cutting off oxygen to critical areas of the brain. This can cause permanent damage within hours. Immediate medical evaluation is the best way to prevent complications and ensure proper treatment.

After a car accident, medical professionals use a variety of diagnostic tools to assess brain injuries, including:

- **CT scans:** The fastest way to detect bleeding in the brain.
- **MRI scans:** Used to assess deeper or more subtle injuries.
- **Neurological exams:** Assess cognitive and motor function to determine the extent of the injury.

Some of the top medical centers for treating brain injuries in Pittsburgh include: UPMC Presbyterian Hospital, Allegheny General Hospital, and UPMC Rehabilitation Institute. Receiving medical treatment right away is not only important for health but also plays a significant role in legal claims. Medical records serve as essential evidence when pursuing compensation for a brain injury.

Depending on the severity of the injury, treatment may include medications, surgical procedures like emergency surgery to relieve pressure or remove blood clots, and ICU monitoring in addition to rehabilitation and long-term care. The cost of medical treatment and rehabilitation can be overwhelming. Seeking compensation from the at-fault party may be often what it takes to cover these expenses and ensure access to the best possible care.

Legal rights and options for brain injury victims in Pittsburgh

When a brain bleed results from a car accident caused by another driver's negligence, victims have the right to seek compensation for their injuries. A personal injury claim can help recover damages for:

- Medical bills, including emergency care and rehabilitation
- Lost wages and reduced earning capacity
- Pain and suffering, including emotional distress
- Long-term disability costs, such as home modifications and in-home care

Pennsylvania law allows victims two years from the date of the accident to file a personal injury lawsuit. Delaying legal action can make it harder to collect evidence and prove the full extent of damages. However, filing a claim isn't easy – insurance companies often dispute brain injury claims, downplay symptoms, or argue that pre-existing conditions are to blame. Working with an experienced attorney can help navigate these challenges and maximize compensation.

Romanow Law Group fights for Pittsburgh brain injury victims

A brain bleed after a car accident is a life-threatening injury that requires immediate medical attention. The symptoms are not always obvious right away, and waiting too long to seek care can lead to irreversible damage.

Beyond the medical challenges, brain injury victims often face financial uncertainty, from overwhelming medical bills to lost income and long-term rehabilitation costs. Insurance companies often downplay the severity of these injuries, offering low settlements that fail to cover the true cost of recovery. Navigating the legal process alone can be overwhelming, but you don't have to do it on your own.

At [Romanow Law Group](#), we fight for Pittsburgh car accident victims who have suffered serious brain injuries. Our legal team understands the long-term impact of a brain bleed and works aggressively to hold negligent drivers and their insurers accountable. Our case results include a settlement of more than \$1 million for a car accident. If you or a loved one suffered a brain injury in a car accident, [contact](#) Romanow Law Group today for a free consultation. Let us handle the legal battle while you focus on healing.

"Romanow Law Group helped me during a difficult time in my life. They actually fight to get you the settlement you deserve!" - Amber L., ★★☆☆☆