

Overdose or opioid misuse may lead to a brain injury.

Brain injury can happen when the brain does not get enough oxygen. When the brain does not get oxygen, cells begin to die. This can happen in 5 minutes or less, and lead to an anoxic brain injury.

This lack of oxygen for any amount of time can lead to symptoms that are caused by a brain injury. If you are experiencing any emotional, physical, or cognitive changes after opioid use or overdose, check the back of this card.

Toxic Brain Injury

This can happen from longer-term substance misuse and non-fatal overdose. Opioids are depressants (downers), meaning they slow down the central nervous system. During an overdose, the central nervous system slows down, which can result in decreased breathing and heart rate, loss of consciousness, and possibly lead to a coma or death. An overdose causes the body to forget to breath and creates a lack of oxygen.

Toll-Free Helpline
1-877-TBI-FACT
www.biaofsc.com



**BRAIN INJURY
ASSOCIATION**
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

SYMPTOMS OF BRAIN INJURY

Some of these symptoms can be caused by opioid use or misuse. If they are happening for a longer time than usual or are a big change to before opioid use or overdose, they could be caused by a brain injury.



Emotional:

- Feeling unmotivated
- Difficulty starting tasks
- Restlessness
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Mood swings (ex. quicker to anger)
- Changes in sleep



Physical:

- Nausea and/or vomiting
- Constant headache
- Ringing in ears
- Feeling dizzy
- Poor balance
- Blurred vision or changes in vision



Cognitive:

- Slurred speech
- Increased confusion
- Memory problems
- Brain fog

**Need more information?
Contact us! We can help!**

