PEDIATRIC AFFILIATES
OF HAMPTON ROADS

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HEAD INJURY

Even after your child has been thoroughly examined by us for evidence of head injury, there are certain signs of trouble that may appear within 48 hours after the injury. Watch your child carefully during the next 48 hours, and telephone us if any of the following signs of trouble develop.

SIGNS OF TROUBLE

1. Excessive Drowsiness - your child should be easily awakened from sleep by any means you usually use to wake your child up. If you cannot do this, notify us.

2. Continued Vomiting - 3 or 4 times after the injury or if it reoccurs hours after it stopped.

3. One pupil appears to be larger than the other.

4. The child does not move either one of their arms or legs normally, or if your child has trouble walking.

5. Your child is unable to talk, or speech is hard to understand.

6. A severe headache occurs, and if it gets worse or will not go away.

7. Your child complains of "seeing double".

8. A convulsion or seizure or fit occurs.

For the first 24 hours following the head injury, or during a nap, it is advisable to arouse your child every 3 hours and look for any of these danger signs. If your child has a "goose egg" (bluish swelling at the site of the injury), this is not worrisome-it is merely swelling of the scalp that will go down, usually rapidly.