

Concussion

Unconsciousness for a short period, followed by an increase in levels of response and recovery.

Short term memory loss (*particularly of the incident*). Confusion, irritability.

Mild, general headache.

Pale, clammy skin.

Shallow / normal breathing.

Rapid, weak pulse.
(*Blood diverts away from the extremities*)

Normal pupils, reacting to light.

Possible nausea or vomiting on recovery.

Compression

Could have a history of recent head injury with apparent recovery, but then deteriorates.

Levels of response become worse as condition develops.

Intense headache.

Flushed, dry skin.

Deep, noisy, slow breathing.
(*Pressure on the respiratory control area of the brain*)

Slow, strong pulse.
(*Caused by raised blood pressure*)

One or both pupils dilate as pressure increases on the brain.

Condition becomes worse. Fits may occur. No recovery.