Injuries at 16–19 years

Overview of indicators.

Developmental characteristics of 16–19-year-olds:

- complex reasoning and judgement
- ability to plan and execute complex projects over time
- solid sense of own identity
- social sophistication
- capacity for compassion.

Possible disruptions following brain injury:

- new and unexpected gaps in learning (for example, memory for numbers)
- reduced speed of mental processing
- inability to organise complex tasks
- conflict between specific challenges and career goals
- interference in developmental drive toward independence/separation
- social awkwardness
- tiredness
- defensiveness regarding emotional/cognitive problems
- depression
- negative body and/or social image.

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