Important Information About the ImPACT Baseline Assessment

ImPACT is a research-based computer test developed to assist the evaluation of an individual’s recovery following a concussion. ImPACT testing is most helpful when an individual has completed a baseline functional assessment prior to suffering a concussion. If a concussion does occur, repeat ImPACT testing can be used to monitor the recovery process and aid decision making regarding return to play and other daily activities.

The ImPACT test involves a 20-minute neuropsychological test battery. The evaluation includes a review of concussion history, symptom check list and assessment of memory, attention, speeded problem solving, and reaction time. Results of a baseline assessment are intended to be used for post-concussion comparison. Baseline results are not effective in determining learning disabilities or to be used in other clinic or functional assessment contexts. An individual’s baseline performance is compared to other non-concussed individuals of similar age. This comparison is important to determine the validity of the assessment, which can be negatively influenced by low motivation or effort while undergoing the baseline assessment. The results of the baseline assessment will be reviewed only to verify that the assessment is valid and will not be reviewed for any diagnostic or other similar purpose. However, the baseline assessment results may be used in the future to aid in the diagnosis and management of a concussion. Invalid results may require a repeat baseline assessment.

When a concussion is suspected, a follow-up test is administered to see if the results have changed from the baseline. This comparison helps to diagnose and manage the concussion. Follow-up tests can be administered over days or weeks to help track the injury. ImPACT testing following a concussion should be part of a comprehensive physical and neurocognitive assessment and not viewed as a stand-alone measure for decision making.

Deciding when an individual can return to play following a concussion is often difficult. Returning to play before complete recovery significantly increases one’s risk for sustaining an additional, even more severe, brain injury. Athletes will often fail to report symptoms of concussion hoping they can get back to the playing field more quickly. Using ImPACT to implement baseline and post-injury neurocognitive testing can help objectively evaluate a concussed person’s post-injury condition and recovery to prevent the cumulative effects of concussion.

Results of the baseline assessment will be stored within the University of Utah’s ImPACT account. You will receive a hard copy of the baseline assessment upon completion of the test today. If you are concerned you may have had a concussion, you may schedule an appointment in the concussion clinic at the University Orthopaedic Center by calling 801-587-7109.

Sincerely,

University of Utah Sport Concussion Program
Acknowledgement Of Baseline ImPACT Assessment Procedures

I have read and understand the document “Important Information About the ImPACT Baseline Assessment.” I have also been offered a copy of the document. I have had an opportunity to ask questions about the document and those questions have been answered to my satisfaction.

Name of Person Completing Baseline Test

Signature of Person Completing Baseline Test Date

If the person completing the baseline test is a minor (younger than 18 years of age) or is otherwise unable to consent on his or her behalf, a parent or guardian must sign below.

Name of Parent/Guardian

Signature of Parent/Guardian Date