 Introduction

Sports-related neurosurgical injuries

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Neurosurgeons have long had a vested interest in traumatic injuries to the brain and spine, and have more recently taken a leadership role in the prevention of mild and severe traumatic injuries. Trauma remains the leading cause of death in children in the US, and severe traumatic injuries remain a leading cause of morbidity, lost productivity, and death among otherwise healthy adults. Many of these injuries are suffered during sports and other recreational activities.

During the past few years, sports-related head and spine traumas have received significantly more attention in the lay press, especially the impact of concussions and chronic traumatic encephalopathy from repetitive brain injury. As neurosurgeons are among the few specialists who care for patients with the full spectrum of nervous system injuries, from mild to severe, it is essential that we continue to shape the field in research, clinical practice, and public policy discussions. Several excellent articles in this volume address these timely topics, including the range of injuries in soccer, impact of chronic repetitive head injury, return to play after concussion, decompressive surgery for severe head injury, all-terrain vehicles, and sports-related spine and peripheral nerve injuries. We hope you will find this issue of Neurosurgical Focus enlightening and enjoyable. (DOI: 10.3171/2011.9.FOCUS11258)

Disclosure

Dr. Maroon owns stock in ImPACT Applications, Inc.