TBI Compared to Other Disabilities

Diagnosing a traumatic brain injury can be difficult without documentation of the incident. This is because symptoms of TBI, Autism, Learning Disability (LD), Emotional Disturbance (ED), and Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) can be shared across disabilities.

UNIQUE TO TBI

- Sudden onset
- Previous successful function at a higher level
- Prior self-image as "normal", loss of sense of self
- Medical complications and fatigue are common
- Previously learned information can assist in reacquiring skills

SHARED BY TBI AND AUTISM

- Problems generalizing new information

SHARED BY TBI, LD, AND ED

- Inconsistent patterns of performance
- Memory difficulties

SHARED BY TBI, AUTISM, ED, AND ADHD

- Compromising self-awareness (i.e., struggles to recognize challenges)
- Extreme difficulties with self-regulation
- Difficulty building or maintaining interpersonal relationships
- Inappropriate behavior in normal circumstances

SHARED BY ALL

- Poor judgement and loss of emotional control
- Slower pace of skill acquisition
- Family experience of grief

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