

FAQ's on ImPACT™

1. What is the ImPACT Concussion Test?

The ImPACT test is a pre-season physical of the brain which tracks information such as memory, reaction time, speed, and concentration, but is not an IQ test. This computer based “video-game” style test is a tool to assess cognitive function before and after a concussion.

2. What if my child doesn't get a baseline test, can they still take a post-concussion test?

Yes! We would prefer to have an individual baseline to compare results to, however, ImPACT's comprehensive normative data includes more than 75,000 results. These results provide reliability and validity even without a baseline.

3. Is it necessary to have two post-concussion tests?

Most of the time, yes. When the injury occurs, the initial post-concussion test will be given within 48-72 hours. Once it is determined there is a cognitive delay, the athlete will rest until their signs and symptoms have diminished. Once the athlete is symptom free, they will be re-tested to determine if the cognitive delay has improved.

4. How long does the test take?

The test itself takes 20-25 minutes. Before beginning the test, demographic information (name, address, e-mail), concussion history, and a current list of signs and symptoms is required.

5. Do I need to be baseline tested every year?

ImPACT recommends athletes 6th grade through high school be tested every 2 years. College students should only be tested once.

6. How much does a baseline test cost?

Athletes Advantage Sports Medicine is providing the baseline test at no charge for the athletes in contact sports at OTHS.

7. What is the process for taking the post-concussion test?

The post-concussion test is ordered by the ImPACT Certified physician and is administered in their office. Once the post-concussion test is given, the athlete will be evaluated by the physician who will interpret the test, do a neurological exam, and discuss the protocol for a concussion injury.

8. Can my doctor interpret the results of the ImPACT Post-Concussion test?

We can provide your physician with a copy of the ImPACT test, however, most physicians are not trained in the interpretation of the ImPACT results. We have Credentialed ImPACT™ Consultants who have been trained in concussion management and interpretation of the ImPACT test.

