5A CONSEQUENCES

The *consequences* of traumatic brain injury cover the range from *mild to severe deficits* depending on extent and location of the damage. Survivors who have been comatose usually exhibit significant memory dysfunction for both past events and new learning. They may be disoriented and exhibit severe attentional problems. Post traumatic survivors often fatigue easily. Their emotions and behavior are likely to deteriorate when they are frustrated or cannot meet demands.

In general, certain areas of the brain process information in different ways related to specific functions. The *right cerebral hemisphere* responds to information in a more holistic and spatial sense, and the left cerebral hemisphere responds in a logical and linear fashion, which helps it with the use and comprehension of language. Regardless of the uniqueness of the two hemispheres, they do communicate with each other a thousand times a second through the corpus callosum. (Savage, 1994)

The *frontal lobe* has connections with the limbic system (emotions) and other brain lobes. Injury to this area severely compromises a student's ability to synthesize signals from the environment, assign priorities, make decisions, initiate actions, control emotions, behave and interact socially, make plans, and perform other executive-like functions. (Restak, 1991)

The *temporal lobes* are located on both sides of the brain and are responsible for hearing, auditory sensations and language. The *parietal lobe*, located behind the frontal lobe at the top of the brain, responds to touch, heat, cold, pain and body awareness. (Savage, 1994)

The *occipital lobe* is another area that can be affected or damaged by an injury. The occipital lobe controls vision. Results can be blindness, distorted vision, or partial loss of sight.

5B IMPLICATIONS

COGNITIVE DEFICITS INCLUDE:
Memory Impairment
Planning/Organizational Problems
Attention/Concentration Deficits
Impaired Auditory Comprehension
Impaired Perception
Deficits in Information Processing
Deficits in Judgement/Decision Making
Sequencing Information Deficits
Impaired Communication/Language
Impaired Reaction Time
Decreased Abstraction Ability
Impaired Flexibility on Tasks
Deficits in Spatial Orientation

SENSORIMOTOR DEFICITS INCLUDE:
Impaired Vision and/or Hearing
Impaired Fine and/or Gross Motor Skills
Impaired Coordination/Speed of Movement
Impaired Speech
Deficits in Motor Function
Impaired Balance and Strength

BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS INCLUDE:
Personality Changes
Irritability
Fatigue
Impulsivity
Disinhibition
Hyperactivity
Emotional Lability
Difficulty Initiating
Impaired Social Skills
Egocentricity
Impaired Judgement
Impaired Sexuality
Dependency
Aggressive Behavior
Inappropriate Behavior for Age
Poor Self Esteem
Poor Self Control
Impaired Insight
Lack of Initiation
Increased Anxiety