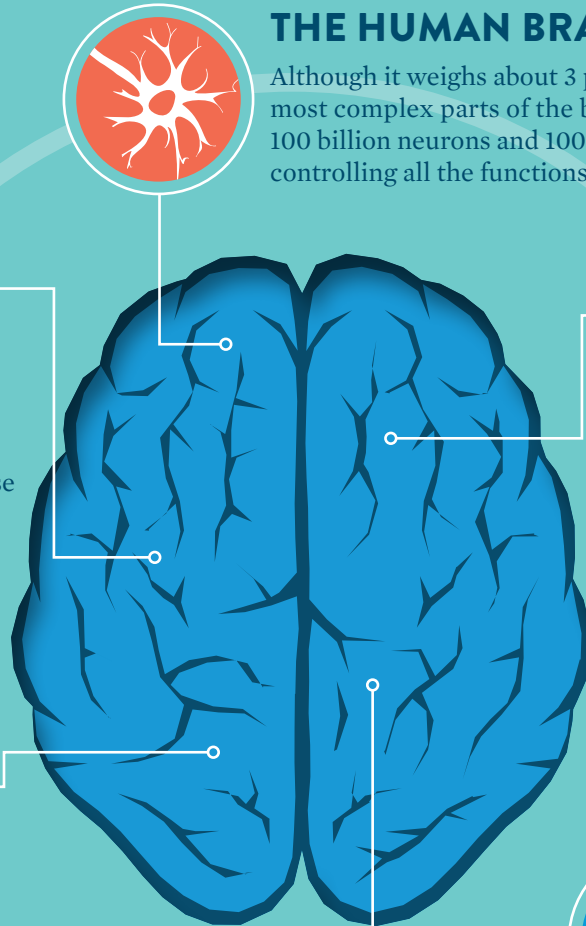




THE HUMAN BRAIN

Although it weighs about 3 pounds, the brain is one of the most complex parts of the body,¹ consisting of about 100 billion neurons and 100 trillion synapses (connections), controlling all the functions of the body.²



PARTNERSHIP

Abbott and the U.S. Department of Defense have announced a collaboration with the intent to develop portable blood tests to help evaluate potential concussions (also called traumatic brain injuries).⁶



TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

A traumatic brain injury (TBI) is caused by a bump, blow or jolt to the head or a penetrating head injury that disrupts the normal function of the brain. TBIs are classified by the severity of injury, from mild to severe. A mild TBI is also called a concussion.³



SIDE EFFECTS OF TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES

While research is still being conducted on the impact of TBIs, some side effects may include:

- Changes to memory and reasoning
- Loss of sensation (i.e., smell, taste and touch)
- Problems with communication and emotional fluctuations⁴



EVALUATING BRAIN INJURIES

Detecting mild concussions can be difficult.⁵ Studies suggest that certain proteins, called biomarkers, leak into the bloodstream following a brain injury.^{6,7}

BRAIN BASICS

Understanding Traumatic Brain Injury

How do you know if you should seek medical attention or if you should wait and see? When in doubt, always get prompt medical attention. To learn more about traumatic brain injury, please visit www.abbott.com and www.brainline.org.

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