



MEASURING MEMORY AND REACTIONS

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It's a computer program that could save your child's life-- a way to measure their memory and reactions in case they suffer from a concussion. **Jeremy Couch** spent the morning at Highland High School as they began their second year of the baseline program, and explains how exactly this program works.

The program has been set up for student athletes. They take a test that asks them questions; that takes memory and quick reactions.

Then if the athlete suffers from a concussion, they can go back to their first test results and see how bad there brain has been injured.

During football games hitting hard and playing tough it often the motto. But recent studies show teens that suffer concussions during athletic events could be at more of a risk than most think. Teens may not be as resilient as once thought.

Brent Faure: "The latest research is showing for an adolescent, a person between the ages of 13-19, the brain heals at a much slower rate than any their time in life."

Which athletic trainers say puts the average high school athlete at a big risk. Athletic trainers at Highland High School are trying to minimize the risk.

For the past two years the school has asked high school athletes to take impact test. It measures a player's brain activity on a normal basis.

That way, when a player suffers a concussion, health experts have more of a stable comparison.

Scott Barlow: "When we do a post concussion test, it evaluates that individual, and so it gives us some very concrete information in terms of how the brain is actually functioning."

This helps trainers and physicians since players don't often answer correctly about their injuries. We asked 2 players who took this test if it will help them be more cautious about getting hit.

Tanner Harding: "No, not really, not for me actually I don't know about other people, but I just go out there and play."

Carloine Faure: "No not, particularly now we've just taken the test maybe in the next week worth of practice or in the next upcoming practices."

This is exactly why physicians are taking extra measures. Trainers say when an athlete suffers a concussion; they often shrug it off and don't give themselves enough time to heal, increasing their risk of second impact syndrome.

Brent Faure: "What happens with second impact syndrome is that the brain can't... there's already some swelling to go; you take another hit and the brain literally explodes inside the skull."

A condition that has already taken the lives of hundreds of athletes across the United States. Even though students say they are not taking extra care, trainers say since the program was implemented, the amount of concussions has decreased from 29 to 2.