

# More trouble for Big Ben Concussion may force Roethlisberger to sit again

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**Ben Roethlisberger was briefly knocked unconscious during a helmet-to-helmet hit with the Falcons' Chauncey Davis last Sunday.**

US Presswire



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PITTSBURGH (AP) -- [Ben Roethlisberger](#) is questionable for the [Pittsburgh Steelers'](#) game against Oakland after sustaining a concussion against Atlanta -- the second concussion for the Super Bowl-winning quarterback in slightly more than four months.

"He will be cleared medically before we subject him to playing," coach Bill Cowher said Tuesday. "We will take all necessary precautions."

Roethlisberger was briefly knocked unconscious during a helmet-to-helmet hit with the Falcons' [Chauncey Davis](#) midway through the third quarter after completing 16 of 22 passes for 238 yards and three touchdowns -- his best game of the season.

Roethlisberger was woozy and looked dazed a few minutes later while being taken to the locker room on a motorized cart, but returned later to watch the rest of the game on the sideline. The Steelers lost 41-38, their fourth loss in five games, even though backup QB [Charlie Batch](#) came in to throw two touchdown passes.

Roethlisberger was judged well enough to fly home on the team plane Sunday night, and he drove his car to a team meeting Monday. Also Monday, he met with a neurologist and took the ImPACT concussion test that many NFL teams use to determine the severity of a concussion and when a player is fit to return.

The test measures a player's memory, attention, mental processing speed and reaction time. The results are compared to those when the player was healthy.

"We are very encouraged with the results," Cowher said. "But it's too early to tell (if he will play Sunday). .. If he's not cleared, he's not going to play."

Roethlisberger also sustained a concussion, and needed seven hours of surgery mostly to repair facial injuries, when his motorcycle collided with a car June 12 in Pittsburgh.

A football player receiving a second concussion in a relatively brief time can be susceptible to succeeding concussions, according to various concussion-related studies by doctors who have studied the issue for the NFL. Also, a player receiving multiple concussions in a brief time span may need a longer recovery time before playing again than one coming off his initial concussion.

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