The brain is vital to our ability to function normally in everyday situations and is the prime driver of all life-giving bodily functions. Head trauma impacts the brain by causing increased brain fluid development or blockage of brain fluid flow. Brain herniations arise from an increased intracranial pressure that results in a mass effect severe enough to push intracranial structures into another compartment of the brain (Blumenfeld, 2010). This presentation addresses the six varieties of brain herniations, their possible impacts, and the importance of proper diagnosis. Brain herniations in a variety of situations are presented along with common diagnostic processes and tools, required actions, possible outcomes and their resulting prognosis.

Cannabis has been harvested throughout time for a variety of purposes, and those purposes depend on the string of cannabis that is being planted. Hemp, a non-psychoactive strand, has been used to create rope, canvas, sails and other productive uses. Marijuana on the other hand contains a higher percentage of THC, and has served medicinal and religious purposes. Recently in the United States today, there has been a debate on whether marijuana should be legalized or not. In states that have legalized the use of marijuana, and even in those that have not legalized it, marijuana is one of the most commonly used drugs among adults and adolescents. Research has shown that there are implications in ingesting this drug, and its effects depend on the age of the user and amount of used. The strongest, of which, have shown to be among adolescents, because it has shown to diminish the production of GABA, a neurotransmitter used to inhibit certain messages sent from other neurons. This can have an impact on the growth of the brain overall, and more specifically the prefrontal cortex, which is developing at this stage in an individual’s life. There has also been research conducted which has shown that the environment that an adolescent is raised in, and the type of friends or peers that surround them will determine if they will engage in the use of marijuana. This presentation will go into depth on the impact marijuana has on adolescents socially, academically, physiologically, and psychologically.

Over the past several decades, there has been an increasing prevalence in prescription and illicit drug use among pregnant women. In the 2013 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, it was documented that 5.4% of pregnant women between the ages of 15-44 were reported as illicit drug users. Between 1996 and 2000, nearly half of all pregnant women were recorded to have received prescription drugs that were shown to have harmful effects on a developing fetus, according to the FDA Categories of Drug Safety During Pregnancy. Some of these drugs are well known to have negative effects in exposed infants. With others, very little is known regarding the risks to infants. In this presentation an assortment of drugs and their effects on fetal development, as well as the onset of disorders related to neonatal drug exposure, will be covered. In addition, the FDA Categories of Drug Safety During Pregnancy and the prevalence of prescription and illicit drug use throughout pregnancy will be examined. Paternal drug factors that could be related to childhood disorders will also be considered.