

# Post-traumatic amnesia period

- 1** Read the passage and say if the following statements are true (T) or false (F). Then correct the false ones.

There are a number of things family and friends should remember during this stage. Firstly, any unusual behaviour is probably caused by the effects of the injury and therefore should not be taken personally. Second, too much stimulation during this time can increase the person's level of confusion. During PTA (Post-Traumatic Amnesia), patients may not be able to cope with too much noise or activity, so it is important to keep these to a minimum around the individual. The same when trying to communicate: avoid overloading the person with too much information at once and keep sentences short. Thirdly, families should be encouraged to get enough sleep and 'time-out' from the hospital for self-recuperation. The emotional and physical role of watching and being next to your loved one continuously can be exhausting. Sleeping will mean that your

ability to provide care for the injured person is more effective during crucial periods, such as rehabilitation. When the patient goes back home, it is important to monitor how the person's safety could be compromised as a result of their amnesia. Special precautions such as preventing the person from driving and not leaving them alone in the house may need to be taken.



**to cope with:** *far fronte*  
**exhausting:** *estenuante*  
**to overload:** *sovraccaricare*

1. There is no link between the injury that caused amnesia and the behaviour of a person after the trauma.
2. Too much stimulation should be avoided after the trauma.
3. Patients may be very sensitive to noise after the trauma.
4. Communication with these patients should be the same as before the trauma.
5. Also families of those affected by post-traumatic amnesia need to be cared for.
6. When back at home again life for the patient can be the same as before the trauma.

T	F
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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**2** Richard has just come back home from hospital after a car accident which has caused him post-traumatic amnesia. Look back at the reading passage and write YES or NO after the following statements.

1. Let's organise a party when Richard comes back home from hospital. ....
2. I would like to invite Richard to a concert, I know he likes that band. ....
3. Let's take Richard for a walk on the beach tomorrow morning before it gets crowded with people. ....
4. Why don't you come with your three children and visit Richard, now that he's back home? ....
5. Can I give you a hand with Richard? You could go out with friends this afternoon. ....
6. Richard, I need to go to the bank, but I will be back in an hour. Can you look after the house while I'm away? .....

