



February 2016

# YOU SHOULD KNOW

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**Patrick Malone & Associates**

202-742-1500  
888-625-6635

Dear Jessica,

The concussion story is another example of what can happen when people stand up for their rights. As former Pittsburgh Steelers QB Terry Bradshaw said: The NFL is "forced to care because it's politically correct to care. Lawsuits make you care."



## *Litigation Forces NFL to Better Protect Players*

# Hail to Our Growing Awareness of Traumatic Brain Injury



*Will Smith portrays Dr. Bennet Omalu in the film Concussion. [Movie notes here.](#)*

Will Smith's portrayal of Dr. Bennet Omalu in the film *Concussion* has again sparked dialogue about the dangers of brain injuries, especially for young people playing contact sports in high school and college. Yet more than 100 million Americans gathered around big screen televisions throughout the nation on Sunday to watch historic Super Bowl 50, in which the Denver Broncos literally butted heads with the Carolina Panthers.

What's the difference between a concussion and a mild traumatic brain injury (TBI)? Absolutely nothing, says the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). And

while "mild" may not sound very sinister, repeated traumatic brain injuries can lead to a lifetime of brain damage and debilitating mental health issues.

*Read "Iron Mike's" story [here.](#)*

## THE DOCKET /

> CHECK OUT OUR BETTER HEALTH CARE NEWSLETTER.

> LATEST NEWS FROM OUR PATIENT SAFETY BLOG

## BY THE NUMBERS /

# 300,000 Concussions

High school athletes suffer an estimated 300,000 sports-related concussions a year, according to a [2012 report](#) in the American Journal of Sports Medicine.

- > HEALTH CARE ADVOCATES' POWER KIT
- > MALPRACTICE A-Z: ANSWERS ON SPECIFIC TOPICS
- > THE LAWSUIT PROCESS STEP BY STEP

47%  
Football

Forty-seven percent of all high school sports-related concussions are [sustained](#) by football players.

19x  
Higher

A 2009 NFL-funded study showed that former players suffered from memory-related diseases at a rate [19 times higher](#) than the general population.

## BOOKMARK FAVORITES /



### Football's Concussion Crisis Explained

This video rundown explores exactly how repeated traumatic brain injuries have affected pro football players and what steps the NFL is taking to prevent future brain damage. [View video.](#)



### Repeated Brain Injuries Include Symptoms Similar to Alzheimer's

CNN's Dr. Sanjay Gupta explains the physiology of concussions, how to recognize the signs of a concussion and what you need to know about recovery. [View video.](#)



### Concussions 101: An Illustrated Primer for Kids and Parents

This video can help teach both you and your kids about the symptoms of a concussion, the importance of communication and the best ways to heal. [View video.](#)



## Concussions and the Courthouse

A new report from the American Association for Justice documents the impact of litigation on the investigation of concussions in professional sports and sports at all levels.

[Read here](#)



## Team Doctor on "Concussion"

Julian Bailes, the neurosurgeon who for a decade worked as a team doctor for the Pittsburgh Steelers, talks about his role in the real-life story behind the movie "Concussion."

[Listen now](#)

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