Teen Becomes Musical Genius After Suffering Concussion

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A once tone-deaf teenager is now suddenly able to effortlessly play 13 different musical instruments after suffering from a concussion that doctors believe may have rewired his brain, the Daily Mail reported.

According to the story, Lachlan Connors, a Denver teenager, said he suffered a series of head injuries while playing lacrosse in middle school and was subsequently hospitalized for epilepsy and hallucinations. As his condition worsened, doctors told Connors—who once dreamed of becoming a professional athlete—he would never be able to play sports again.

But Connors's concussion reportedly yielded one bizarre good side effect: He gained newfound musical talent. Now a high school junior, Connors has learned to play the piano, guitar, mandolin, ukulele, harmonica, marimba and two types of bagpipes. According to the teen's family, Connors had never learned how to read music or ever displayed an interest in the creative arts before.

His doctor, Spyridon Papadopoulos, MD, theorizes that the concussions switched on a part of the teen's brain that was previously dormant. In the medical community, the condition of suddenly developing mathematical, musical or artistic abilities is called acquired savant syndrome. The condition is believed to occur when the right side of the brain compensates for an injury on the left.

"Clearly something happened in his brain, and his brain had to recover from injury, and change happened," Papadopoulous said. "And change may have uncovered this ability no one knew he had."

Interestingly enough, Connors suffered from the same type of seizures as the famous 19th century composer Frederic Chopin. There were also similar reports last year of another Denver man, Derek Amato, who learned how to play eight instruments following a concussion he received after diving into a shallow swimming pool.

But don't go knocking your head on anything for some creative talent. Acquired savant syndrome is still very much a mystery in the medical community, and little is known about how or why these changes occur in the brain.

For more information about how concussions affect mental health, click here.

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