Today’s piece was prepared by Rachel Lum Ho, MS4, based on a New York Times article [Playing with a concussion doubles recovery time](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/29/well/move/playing-with-a-concussion-doubles-recovery-time.html?rref=collection%2Fsectioncollection%2Fwell&action=click&contentCollection=well&region=rank&module=package&version=highlights&contentPlacement=2&pgtype=sectionfront).

This article profiles a recent study published in Pediatrics, noting that athletes who leave the game immediately after a concussive injury recover faster than those who continue playing. These data (while limited to due sample size, power, etc.) support current consensus statements and management guidelines around concussions in young athletes. The article also highlights the historic difficulty in getting young athletes to report concussive symptoms and getting them removed from the game immediately, secondary to the culture of highly competitive youth sports programs. The author proposes that the results of this study may help persuade athletes, coaches and families to shift that culture and respond to head injury in young developing athletes swiftly and appropriately.

This article is persuasive in relating to its audience the importance of early identification, work up and management of concussive head injuries in young athletes. It is also persuasive in relating the importance of shifting our response to concussions, and recognizing the dangers of concussive injuries to the developing brain. However, the author relies heavily on the results of this single recent study, which provide promising leads for future research and support current recommendations around concussion management, but also has significant limitations. In doing so, the author may have missed an opportunity to provide readers with more concrete strategies/recommendations pertaining to concussive injuries in young athletes and highlight the need for more research on the topic.

**RESOURCES FOR PROVIDERS, COACHES & PARENTS ON CONCUSSIONS IN ATHLETES:**

[Care of the Young Athlete – Patient Education Handouts](http://www2.aap.org/pubserv/coya/) *American Academy of Pediatrics*

[AAP Guidelines on Sports Related Concussions](http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/126/3/597.full?sid=be1eb27d-979f-45eb-a704-f9d7f068e597) *Conclusions and guidance for clinicians is available at the conclusion of the article, published in Pediatrics*

And that’s today’s Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics: IN THE NEWS!