



## Speaking from Experience Acquired Brain Injury (ABI)

### Transcript for chapter 2 of 10: Brain Injury

**Peter and Carol:** I got pushed off the freeway, in the emergency stopping lane, by another car. It was road rage. A guy got out of the passenger side of the car with an iron bar and came and smashed it through the window.

**Paul:** I was very stressed and I had a stroke. I was getting my wife breakfast in bed and I walked out the front gate with one of my dogs. We got the paper, the dog was carrying it in. I fell over. I got inside and I sort of felt alright, but I couldn't butter the toast. I called my wife and said, "I'm getting you breakfast, but I can't butter the toast".

**Igal, Anat, Illana:** She was driving 60km per hour and she was by herself in the car. She tried to avoid something and turned the car a little bit to the right and it was too much. The car was skidding and wrapping itself around a pole. This is what we know. She was wearing the safety belt, and her head was banging between all the hard frames of the car. Most of her injury was on her left side of her brain and in the base of the brain.

**Delia and Cassandra:** What actually happened to cause my brain injury was, I was driving down a road and I've been told that my car wouldn't stop. I was turning right and I've been told that my car wouldn't stop in the gravel on the road and a truck hit me. And now, I'm here.

**Anita:** Less than six years ago, that was the time that I sustained a car accident. At that time I had a skull laceration and multiple fractures all over my body, and a liver laceration. So, I had to go through multiple surgeries. I had spinal surgery as well.

**Kerrie:** According to my husband, he actually found me; apparently I was making quite strange gasping noises because my body was shutting down, from the morphine overdose that I did actually take.

**Igal, Anat, Illana:** In the hospital, I had to wait. When the doctor came and talked to me, they were saying that they didn't know whether Anat would survive at all. We would have to wait the first 24 hours to know. That was the first thing. It was pretty awful.

**Peter and Carol:** I knew there was something wrong because I could feel things moving [gestures to his head]. I could feel bones moving in my head. The headache was like something I'd never experienced before in my life, and I'd had migraine headaches before. This was beyond migraines.

**Anita:** I was unconscious after the accident, immediately. I don't know how long it was before I woke up, but I was in a coma for two weeks.