

There are two types of amnesia: anterograde amnesia and retrograde amnesia. Both types are caused either by brain trauma or a severe blow to the head. However, both types are very different. A person with anterograde cannot remember events after the trauma – the present. They also cannot form new memories, which indicates that the hippocampus area of the brain has been affected. Short-term memory does not transfer into long-term memory.

A person with retrograde cannot remember events occurred prior to the trauma – the past. A complete loss or partial loss of memory can occur. After an accident, a patient can wake up in a hospital surrounded by their family and have absolutely no recollection as to who they are.