



# ISR Physical Therapy

FCE Tip February, 2015

By Richard W. Bunch, PhD, PT

## Performing FCEs on Closed Head Injuries in Litigation Cases

A closed head injury (CHI) is a type of traumatic brain injury in which the skull and dura mater remain intact. The degree to which a closed head injury (CHI) affects functional capacities can range from negligible to severe. FCEs, in conjunction with psychological and neurological evaluations, are important for determining how physical, cognitive, and/or psychological impairments resulting from closed head injuries (CHIs) translate into occupational disability. In some litigation cases, a person who has recovered from a CHI may be claiming residual symptoms that are vague and difficult to objectively analyze (e.g., headaches, memory loss, anxiety, and depression). Prior to conducting a FCE on a CHI patient, a careful review of medical diagnostics for objective evidence of organic brain damage, and a conduction of a detailed neurological assessment for upper neuron dysfunction should be completed. When a FCE reveals an absence of objective clinical findings and inconsistencies of effort, disability magnification behavior for secondary gain may be suspected. However, the evaluator must consider that diffuse damage to the brain from cerebral swelling may not be reflected by diagnostic studies or clinical examination and may cause invalid responses to tests rendered in a FCE. Therefore, the results of a FCE conducted on a CHI should always be interpreted in conjunction with concurrent clinical psychological and neurological examinations.

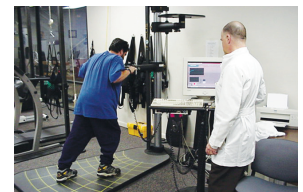
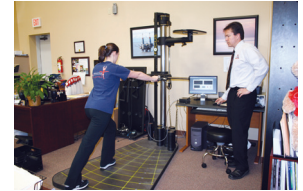
Functional Capacity Evaluations and Impairment Ratings are offered at both our Houma and Harahan facilities. Our licensed evaluators have performed thousands of FCEs concerning injuries of varying degrees and natures. ISR's evaluators are experienced in upholding their clinical findings where litigation is concerned.

## LOCATIONS:

HOUMA WEST  
478 Corporate Dr.  
Houma, LA 70360  
985-872-5911

HOUMA EAST  
814 Grand Caillou Rd. Ste 17  
Houma, LA 70363  
985-346-0383

NEW ORLEANS  
1516 River Oaks Rd. West  
Harahan, LA 70123  
504-733-2111



## ABOUT OUR EVALUATORS:

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Richard W. Bunch PhD, PT, CBES  
Founder and CEO, of ISR Institute , Partner of ISR  
Physical Therapy of Houma & Harahan

Dr. Bunch is founder and CEO of ISR Institute. He is a nationally renowned professional speaker, author, and consultant on the topics of wellness, ergonomics, injury prevention, and injury management.



Trevor D. Bardarson PT, OCS, CSCS  
Clinic Director, Houma, Partner of ISR Physical Therapy of  
Houma & Harahan

Trevor is a Board Certified Orthopedic Specialist and Certified Behavioral Based Ergonomic Specialist. He is also Certified in Mechanical Diagnosis and Therapy of the Spine by the McKenzie Institute USA, is a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist, and is currently the Training Director for the Worksaver FCE Protocol. Mr. Bardarson is also the Vice President of Clinical Operations for Industrial Safety and Rehabilitation Institute and Clinic Director/Partner of ISR Physical Therapy of Houma, LLC.



Marc Cavallino, MPT, OCS  
Clinic Director & Partner of ISR Physical Therapy Harahan

Marc completed his Masters of Physical Therapy at Emory University in 2001. He has had the opportunity since his graduation to work with a variety of orthopedic conditions and is experienced in FCEs, work conditioning, sports injuries as well as back and neck injuries.