



The VA/DoD Chronic Effects of Neurotrauma Consortium: An Overview at Year 1

Purpose

To examine the purpose and the accomplishments-to-date of the jointly funded VA/DoD *Chronic Effects of Neurotrauma Consortium* (CENC). CENC was developed to create a road map of existing knowledge gaps, to recruit the top relevant subject matter experts in the country, to develop and establish a cohesive set of rigorously designed studies to address these knowledge voids, and to leverage core consortium resources both efficiently and effectively.

Participants

Subject data from 8 active studies across a collaboration of more than 30 universities, nonprofit research organizations, VAMCS, and military centers.

How was the study conducted?

A collaboration among more than 30 universities, nonprofit research organizations, VAMCs, and military medical centers made up of a leadership core, 5 research infrastructure cores, 8 active studies, a data safety monitoring committee, a consumer advisory board, a scientific advisory board, and an independent granting mechanism to foster additional research in chronic effects after mTBI.

Findings

All eight studies are either operational or on-schedule to be active within the expected time frames. Research cores have been effective in developing systems for handling extremely large amounts of data, biospecimens, images and pathology samples. Top subject matter experts from around the country have been actively recruited and engaged. Administrative oversight has been effective in recruiting participants and in monitoring study progress.

Military Impact

Given that mTBI is the signature injury of recent conflicts, a comprehensive understanding of its mechanisms and impact over the long term is essential to understanding the effects of mTBI as well as pointing toward effective treatments for it.

Cifu, D. X., Diaz-Arrastia, R., Williams, R., Carne, W., West, S. L., McDougal, M., & Dixon, K. (2015). The VA/DoD Chronic Effects of Neurotrauma Consortium: An Overview at Year 1. Fed Pract. 2015 August;32(8):44-48