



Key Points Summary

Kornblith E, Bahorik A, Li Y, Peltz CB, Barnes DE, Yaffe K. Traumatic brain injury, cardiovascular disease, and risk of dementia among older US Veterans. *Brain Inj.* 2022 Apr 16;36(5):628-632. doi: 10.1080/02699052.2022.2033842. Epub 2022 Jan 31. PMID: 35099335; PMCID: PMC9187591.

Primary Question this Study Addresses

We investigated whether cardiovascular disease (CVD) explains the association between traumatic brain injury (TBI) and dementia or whether these diagnoses have additive or synergistic effects on dementia risk among older Veterans.

Study Findings That Add to Our Knowledge

We studied a large VHA dataset of Veterans aged 55+ with and without TBI matched on age, sex, and race. We found that TBI is associated with increased prevalence of CVD among older Veterans, and TBI and CVD are independently associated with increased risk of dementia. Together TBI and CVD had an additive effect, increasing dementia risk by about 2.5.

However, CVD did not interact with the association between TBI and dementia risk.

How Study Evidence Might Be Used in Practice

TBI and CVD independently increase the risk of dementia in older Veterans. Given this risk, clinicians may consider recommending self-management activities such as preventing additional TBIs and making healthy lifestyle choices to reduce CVD risk.

 [Resource](#)

To access the study abstract, click here:

 [Abstract](#)

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