



Association of Traumatic Brain Injury with Chronic Pain in Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans: Impact of Comorbid Mental Health Conditions

Purpose

To examine the association between traumatic brain injury (TBI) and chronic pain and pain disability in the context of comorbid conditions, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and depression to better inform care of combat Veterans.

Participants

116,913 combat Veterans who completed a Comprehensive Traumatic Brain Injury Evaluation, and received a diagnosis of TBI (none, mild, or moderate to severe).

How was the study conducted?

This study was a retrospective observational study. This means that the researchers examined data from the past; in this case, the data was from the national Veterans Health Administration (VA) data repository from fiscal years 2007-2015.

Findings

In combat Veterans, chronic pain and pain disability are most commonly associated with TBI in conjunction with PTSD, depression, or both.

Military Impact

Integrated models of care that address pain in conjunction with TBI, PTSD, and depression will likely be the most clinically effective for US Veterans and service members.

Seal K.H., Bertenthal D., Barnes D.E., Byers A.L., Strigo I., Yaffe K., Chronic Effects of Neurotrauma Consortium Study Group. Association of Traumatic Brain Injury with Chronic Pain in Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans: Impact of Comorbid Mental Health Conditions. Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. 2017 Apr; (): . PubMed: 28455190