

TBI and Potential Connection to Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE)



VA Boston Healthcare System, Bedford Campus

Why this research is important:

TBI is the signature injury of the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq and is associated with psychiatric symptoms and long-term cognitive disability. Currently over 120,000 Veterans that receive VA services have been diagnosed with at least one TBI.

Summary:

It is imperative that VA understand the long-term effects a Veteran may experience as a result of one or more TBIs over their lifetime. Dr. McKee's research program has intensively studied those Veterans, and athletes who have played contact sports, and has repeatedly found evidence of the neurodegenerative disease known as CTE. Finding the mechanism that causes CTE is critical to the prevention and potential treatment of the condition.

How the research will improve Veterans' lives:

Determining the mechanism of CTE and who is most susceptible will lead to development and implementation of best-practice diagnostic and treatment plans in order to mitigate negative effects and maximize function for Veterans and all Americans who have experienced repetitive TBI.



Dr. Ann McKee



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