



US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
BLAST INJURY RESEARCH PROGRAM
COORDINATING OFFICE

Education and Clinical Tools

A Comprehensive Review of TBI: A Focus on the US Military Population

The use of explosive armaments in OEF and OIF has contributed to approximately 15% of the 313,816 diagnosed cases of TBI in the military since 2000. Rehabilitation from TBI remains challenging due to polytrauma and treatment strategies must be developed on a per patient basis. In response to these concerns, the DoD has issued guidelines to (1) standardize TBI diagnosis criteria, (2) classify TBI based on injury mechanism and severity, (3) categorize symptoms in somatic, psychological, and cognitive groupings and (4) standardize the care received by Service Members during the acute and chronic/rehabilitation stages of treatment. However, a thorough review of the literature conducted by the CRSR at USUHS indicates that the vast majority of cases in the DoD consist of mTBI, a condition in which traditional biomarkers are unavailable and diagnostic findings remain inconsistent. Results to date indicate that in order to optimize rehabilitation clinicians and investigators must further evaluate long-term mTBI care for resilience and readiness training. This review manuscript is currently under review with the *Journal of Public Health*.