



US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
BLAST INJURY RESEARCH PROGRAM
COORDINATING OFFICE

Quality of Life

Real-time Amputation Injury Quality of Life Outcomes Analysis and Reporting for Department of Defense Leadership

NHRC, in conjunction with EACE and with sponsorship from BUMED, was tasked by the Office of the US Army CSA with providing a report covering long-term outcomes of tri-service US military Service Members who sustained single or multiple amputations and those sustaining non-amputation injuries. This capability is built upon NHRC's EMED, which includes all Service Members injured during deployment since the beginning of OIF and OEF (October 2001). In addition, the EMED includes WWRP, a long-term, prospective survey study measuring quality of life outcomes in injured personnel. To date, 3,600 injured Service Members have provided informed consent and enrolled in the study, and enrollment is ongoing. With over 55,000 injured Service Members eligible to participate, it is the largest DoD effort to date to provide follow-up metrics and quality of life outcomes data in this population. Based on a preliminary analysis, amputees reported significantly lower quality of life than non-amputee injury groups, even after controlling for injury severity. However, their depression and PTSD status did not seem to be worse than other combat-injured groups. Looking more closely at amputee subgroups, multiple amputees had significantly lower quality of life scores than single amputees. This study is providing DoD and VA with a crucial understanding of the long-term physical, mental health, and quality of life outcomes of this population. Measuring the impact of these injuries on quality of life can inform strategies to optimize operational capacity, military health policy, allocation of resources, the development of strategic plans, and assessment of the effectiveness of the treatment and rehabilitation programs throughout DoD and VA. Current and future efforts of EACE and NHRC are focused on developing tailored instruments to assess long-term use and satisfaction with the prosthetics and orthotics prescribed to this population. These instruments will be targeted specifically to the WWRP participants with extremity and amputation injury.