



US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
BLAST INJURY RESEARCH PROGRAM
COORDINATING OFFICE

Neurocognitive Function and Psychological Health Influence of the Severity and Location of Bodily Injuries on Post-Concussive and Combat Stress Symptom Reporting after Military-Related Concurrent mTBIs and Polytrauma

Researchers at the NICOE reported that injuries to three bodily regions, the face, abdomen or extremities, were significant predictors of the total score on a NSI. Two regions, the face and extremities, were predictors of the total score on the civilian form of the PTSD Checklist—Civilian version. Participants included 579 military Service Members with an uncomplicated mTBI with concurrent bodily injuries. Assessments were collected within 2.5 months of the injury, on average. These results suggest an inverse relation between bodily injury severity and symptom reporting, which may be due to underreporting of symptoms, increased peer support, disruption of fear conditioning due to pharmaceutical intervention, or delayed symptom expression. Additional studies are needed to better understand the correlation of injuries with neurobehavioral symptom inventory. Assessments of injured personnel based on self-report symptom reporting should be interpreted with caution due to possible underreporting, pharmaceutical intervention, delayed expression of symptoms, or disruption of fear conditioning.