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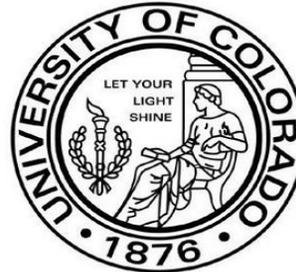
Resources

www.ClinicalTrials.gov

<http://tbicolorado.org/>



 **Department of
Veterans Affairs**



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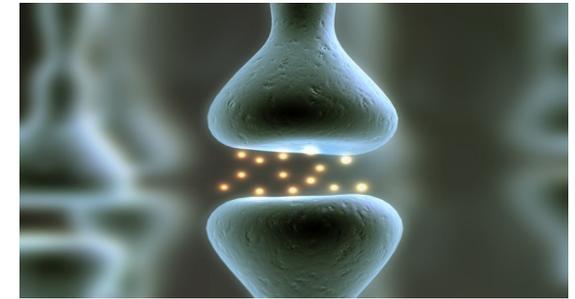
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Current as of January 2011

Executive Dysfunction and Self-Harm Behavior: An Examination of Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, or Both

COMIRB # 08-0502



**CURRENT RESEARCH:
Effects of mild TBI and PTSD on
Executive Functioning in OEF/OIF
Veterans**

Veterans Integrated Service Network
(VISN) 19 Mental Illness Research,
Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC)

Website: <http://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn19>

*Funding for this study is provided by the Colorado
Traumatic Brain Injury Trust Fund.*

*This study is being performed in
collaboration with the University of
Colorado at Boulder*

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MIRECC.*



Study Description and Background

This project will determine whether methods drawn from basic science can robustly detect the effects of traumatic brain injury (TBI) and/or post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) on executive function. Although TBI often occurs in the context of a traumatic event, very little research has attempted to disentangle the effects of TBI from PTSD, which also compromises executive function.

Of note, standard neuropsychological testing methods are ineffective in distinguishing between these groups.

The purpose of this project is to 1) To determine whether tasks taken from cognitive neuroscience can detect and distinguish impairments in executive function in individuals with a) mild TBI b) PTSD or c) mild TBI+PTSD; 2) to determine whether performance on these tasks is linked to outcomes suicidality; and 3) to determine whether information regarding brain anatomy can provide additional information above and beyond behavioral performance in distinguishing between these groups.

This study seeks to compare test performance among four well-defined groups of Veterans:

1. History of active duty-related mild TBI and history of active duty-related PTSD
2. History of active duty-related mild TBI and no history of active duty-related PTSD
3. No history of active duty-related mild TBI and history of active duty-related PTSD
4. No history of active duty-related mild TBI and no history of active duty-related PTSD

Hypotheses, Study Aims, and Short-term Goals

Primary Hypothesis: Across three tasks (Go/No-Go Task, Think/No-Think Task and Iowa Gambling Test) we predict that each group will show a specific pattern of performance relative to controls.

Secondary Hypothesis: The pattern across these three tasks will be superior in distinguishing between the groups than standard neuropsychological tests.



Progress Report

We are currently recruiting and enrolling participants into this research study.

Long-term Goals: Putting Research into Practice

Findings may provide tools to help clinicians distinguish between individuals with mild TBI, PTSD, or mild TBI+PTSD.

This project has the potential for linking executive dysfunction in populations of interest to their brain bases, and to suicidal behavior.

Information obtained in this study may be useful in designing treatments for individuals with these disorders.