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Resources

www.ClinicalTrials.gov

<http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/tbi/>

<http://www.mirecc.va.gov/projects/tbi4/index.asp>



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**Use of a TBI Screen in a
Veteran Mental Health
Population: Validation and
Outcomes**

COMIRB # 08-0001



CURRENT RESEARCH:
**Screening for Traumatic
Brain Injury**

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



Current as of June 2012



Study Description and Background

Military personnel are returning from current conflicts with traumatic brain injury (TBI). Brief and sensitive screening measures are needed to assess TBI in this population.

The Traumatic Brain Injury-4 (TBI-4) is a four-item screening tool that is included in the Eastern Colorado Health Care System (ECHCS) Mental Health Clinic (MHC) intake form. The four questions are as follows:

- (1) Have you ever been hospitalized or treated in an emergency room following a head or neck injury?
- (2) Have you ever been knocked out or unconscious following an accident or injury?
- (3) Have you ever injured your head or neck in a car accident or from some other moving vehicle accident?
- (4) Have you ever injured your head or neck in a fight or a fall?

Individuals who received screenings at intake in the MHC were invited to participate in a research study. The study will compare results from the intake screen to the Ohio State University TBI-ID (OSU TBI-ID), which is considered a gold standard for establishing a TBI diagnosis.

Hypotheses, Study Aims, and Short-term Goals

The primary aims of this study are to:

- 1) Establish the concurrent criterion-related validity of four TBI screening questions (TBI-4) using the Ohio State University TBI Identification Method (OSU TBI-ID);
- 2) Establish the concurrent criterion-related validity of the TBI-4 with the addition of detailed information elicited by the four questions; and
- 3) Link history of TBI with psychiatric outcomes.



Progress Report

We are no longer recruiting and enrolling participants into this research study. We are currently in the data analysis phase of the study.

Long-term Goals: Putting Research into Practice

We hope that the findings will support the dissemination of the TBI-4 to other VA mental health settings.

Findings from the proposed study could facilitate future research and/or impact the care of persons with TBI in the following manner:

1. Clarify the prevalence of TBI-loss of consciousness (LOC) in Veterans seeking mental health treatment, which may support TBI screening for all Veterans seeking mental health services
2. Identify a rapid TBI-screening tool with adequate sensitivity and specificity, facilitating system-wide dissemination
3. Determine if poorer psychiatric outcomes in those with TBI may warrant further study aimed at clarifying specific risk factors and appropriate clinical interventions.

