

The Connection Between TBI & Neurodegenerative Diseases

Source: Produced by Victoria Tilney McDonough and Brian King

Video Link: <http://www.brainline.org/content/multimedia.php?id=1188>

Dr. Jeffrey Bazarian: There is a connection between Traumatic Brain Injury and neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. We've seen this in observational studies. People kind of want to know what that link is. Is it a strong link? Or is it just an observational thing? We do this in the laboratory to an animal we can hit a mouse and then show that it develops Alzheimer's. So there is a good deal of work trying to establish that link and find out what it is about the brain injury that predisposes someone then to neurodegeneration?

This has really been in the public eye since several football players who had well documented concussions, then died at an early age and donated their brains such that they could be autopsied and scientists were able to see that they had signs of Alzheimer's at fairly early ages. We're talking about 40 years old, 50 years old, way, way, way before most people develop Alzheimer's.