



NHRC
Naval Health Research Center

Supporting the biomedical and psychological health and performance of the Navy and Marine Corps

Wounded Warrior Recovery Project (WWRP)

Quality of Life Outcomes in Injured Tri-service U.S. Military Personnel

Problem

Among combat injuries, traumatic brain injury (TBI) and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are common diagnoses in tri-service U.S. military personnel engaged in overseas contingency operations. The long-term effects of these devastating injuries and diagnoses on quality of life (QoL) are not well understood.

Solution

To better understand the consequences of combat injury, TBI, and PTSD on service members' long-term health and readiness, the Naval Health Research Center (NHRC), has developed a long-term research track examining rehabilitative and QoL outcomes in injured U.S. service members. This project is entitled the Wounded Warrior Recovery Project (WWRP).

Results

The Expeditionary Medical Encounter Database (EMED) is used to identify prospective participants. The EMED is a tri-service data repository developed by NHRC that is an objective source of clinical and injury data on U.S. military personnel injured in overseas contingency operations. This rich source of medical treatment data will be integrated with other Department of Defense health and tactical datasets to provide a robust platform for analysis.

Pilot work with the EMED suggests that over 40,000 injured military personnel may be enrolled. This prospective survey-based study will follow this population for 6 years after enrollment, with surveys being administered every 6 months to gauge physical and mental health, as well as QoL. Both U.S. military personnel that are still on active-duty and those that have separated from the military are being invited to enroll.

Benefits

- Study results will provide a crucial understanding of the long-term physical and mental health and QoL of this cohort.
- Quantifying and qualifying the morbidity of these injuries and diagnoses will allow for the implementation of strategies aimed at mitigating the long-term consequences of combat injury, including TBI and PTSD.
- This approach may help to return service members to their pre-injury QoL, minimize time spent recovering from injury, and maximize the ability to resume duty.
- Evaluate current treatment strategies to identify those resulting in meaningful, longer QoL improvement.

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This research has been conducted in compliance with all applicable federal regulations governing the protection of human subjects in research.

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