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William Clearfield

Clearfield Medical Group, USA

The endocrinology of traumatic brain injury

On average, 1.7 million Americans suffer a traumatic brain injury (TBI) yearly, resulting in 52,000 deaths, 275,000 hospitalizations, and 1.365 million ER visits. 71% of TBI victims consider their case as "mild," suffering no overt injuries. Within three months of the event, however, 56% of these patients experience personality changes including anxiety, depression, and other behavioral issues. In 2012, over 400,000 vets returned from Middle Eastern conflicts with diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Traditional therapies, including anti-anxiety, antipsychotic and antidepressant agents, often utilizing multiple units of each agent, do nothing to treat the underlying cause. A French research team, in 1985, lead by EE Baulieu, demonstrated that the neurosteroids pregnenolone, allopregnanolone, progesterone, and DHEA, are produced not only in the periphery, as orthodox medicine long believed, but are also generated in the intracranially. A failure of the cerebral neurosteroid mechanism leads to erratic brain transmissions, which in turn exacerbates mental health issues including depression, suicide, anxiety, panic attacks, phobias, and psychosis commonly witnessed in people living with post-traumatic stress disorder. In this lecture, we explore the role the neurosteroid hormones play in the face of traumatic brain injury, the consequences of their failure, the diagnosis of hormonal deficiencies and insufficiencies and treatment strategies to return the victim to a healthy premorbid hormonal state.

Biography

William Clearfield, a graduate of LaSalle College, the College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery, Des Moines, IA., completed a rotating internship and served as an OB/GYN resident at Metropolitan Hospital, Philadelphia, PA. He is certified by the American Board of Family Medicine after completing a Family Practice resident in 1982 at United Health and Hospital Services in Kingston, PA, since 1982 he is a lead figure in family and integrative medicine. With graduate expertise in areas ranging from Cardiac Rehabilitation (the University of Wisconsin/Lacrosse), to Medical Acupuncture (UCLA, 1991), to Age Management and Non-Surgical Aesthetic Medicine, (Fellowship trained and Diplomat status from the American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine), he is the leading authority on cutting-edge medicine in Northern Nevada. In 2016, his raison d'etre turned when, after meeting with several veterans who suffered traumatic head injuries while serving overseas. Their injuries seemed mild to nonexistent at first, but over time, they all deteriorated, suffering from mental illness, Patterns in their maladies, as compared to panhypopituitarism. Research led him to study with and be certified by the Millennium-Warrior Angel Foundation Traumatic Brain Injury Program.

doctrbil9@gmail.com

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