

What Is The Fatality Of Post Traumatic Stress? Mohamed Tawfik Shembesh, 5th Year Medical Student Libyan International Medical University

Introduction

- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is an anxiety disorder caused by very stressful, frightening or distressing events.¹
- The disease causes recalling of a traumatic event through flashbacks or nightmares leading to anxiety attacks, mood disorders and even insomnia.1
- Hyperarousal is among the most common manifestations, which can cause anger outbursts, insomnia and concentration difficulties.¹
- **PTSD in Children** symptoms include bed wetting and re-enacting the trauma through play.¹

Why Does it Develop?

- Although it's not clear exactly why people develop PTSD, a number of possible reasons have been suggested.¹
 - Survival Mechanism A state of hyperarousal and anticipation.
 - Brain Changes and High Adrenaline¹

PTSD Induced Brain Changes

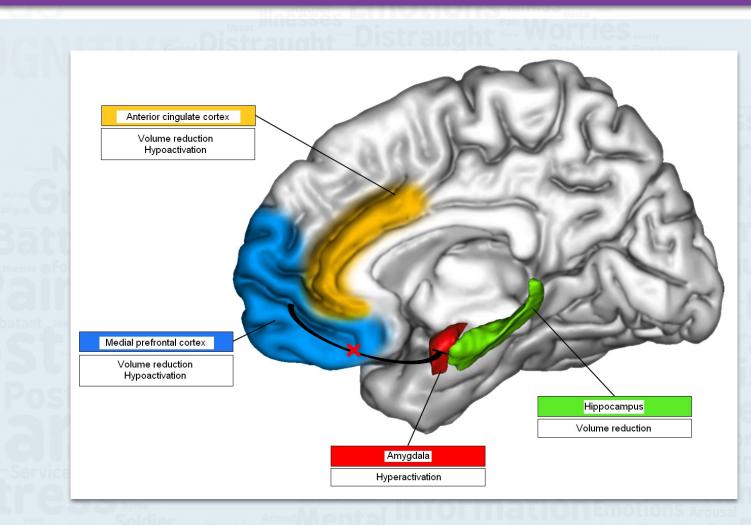
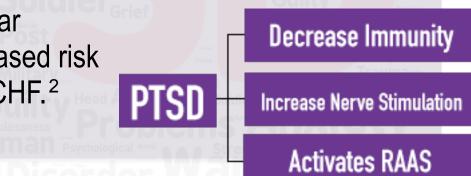


Figure showing the affected regions in the brain 1

Relation with Cardiovascular Disease

- PTSD have many complications, among those, the development of a heart condition, and this relation have been documented on multiple occasions.¹
- A study in 2014 stated that Vietnam War veterans with PTSD had a 22.4% increased risk for CHD and a **50%** risk in developing CHF.²



- According to a study that was done in the U.S. from 2000 to 2011 old veterans (over 55) with PTSD had a 45% increased risk for incident CHD, 26% for CHF, 49% for incident MI.³
- Another study of more than 8000 veterans that took place in the U.S. between 2008-2015, showed that veterans with PTSD were 47% more likely to develop CHF during the 7 year follow up period.

Conclusion

- PTSD is a serious condition, patients with PTSD should be carefully monitored and treated to avoid short-term and long term complications such as developing a heart disease.
- Cardiovascular disease induced PTSD?

References

- Uk, N. (2015). Post-traumatic stress disorder. [online] nhs.uk. Available at: https:// www.nhs.uk/conditions/post-traumatic-stress-disorder-ptsd [Accessed 11 May 2018].
- Brudy, C., Park, J. and Mellman, T. (2015). Autonomic and inflammatory consequences of post traumatic stress disorder and the link to cardiovascular disease. [online] American Journal of Physiology. Available at: https://www.physiology.org/doi/10.1152/ajpregu.00343.2014 [Accessed 12 May 2018].
- Beristianos, M., Yaffe, K., Cohen, B. and Byers, A. (2011). PTSD and Risk of Incident -3 Cardiovascular Disease in Aging Veterans. [online] The American Journal of Geriatric Psychology. Available at: https://www.ajgponline.org/article/S1064-7481(14)00357-1/ [Accessed 12 May 2018].
- Masnfield, A. (2015). Study adds evidence on link between PTSD, heart disease. [online] Research.va.gov. Available at: https://www.research.va.gov/currents/spring2015/ spring2015-8.cfm [Accessed 12 May 2018].

RAAS: Renin-Angiotensin Aldosterone System, CHD: Coronary Heart Disease, CHF: Congestive Heart Failure, MI: Myocardial Infarction



