

Geriatric traumatic brain injury

A review of the literature on [traumatic brain injury](#) (TBI) in older adults focuses on incident TBI sustained in older adulthood ("geriatric TBI") rather than on the separate, but related, topic of older adults with a history of earlier-life TBI.

Gardner et al., described the epidemiology of geriatric TBI, the impact of comorbidities and pre-injury function on TBI risk and outcomes, diagnostic testing, management issues, outcomes, and critical directions for future research. The highest incidence of TBI-related emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and deaths occur in older adults. Higher morbidity and mortality rates among older versus younger individuals with TBI may contribute to an assumption of futility about aggressive management of geriatric TBI. However, many older adults with TBI respond well to aggressive management and rehabilitation, suggesting that chronological age and TBI severity alone are inadequate prognostic markers. Yet there are few geriatric-specific TBI guidelines to assist with complex management decisions, and TBI prognostic models do not perform optimally in this population. Major barriers in management of geriatric TBI include under-representation of older adults in TBI research, lack of systematic measurement of pre-injury health that may be a better predictor of outcome and response to treatment than age and TBI severity alone, and lack of geriatric-specific TBI common data elements (CDEs). This review highlights the urgent need to develop more age-inclusive TBI research protocols, geriatric TBI CDEs, geriatric TBI prognostic models, and evidence-based geriatric TBI consensus management guidelines aimed at improving short- and long-term outcomes for the large and growing geriatric TBI population ¹⁾.

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Gardner RC, Dams-O'Connor K, Morrissey MR, Manley GT. Geriatric Traumatic Brain Injury: Epidemiology, Outcomes, Knowledge Gaps, and Future Directions. J Neurotrauma. 2018 Feb 15. doi: 10.1089/neu.2017.5371. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 29212411; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC5865621.

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Suehiro E, Suzuki M. [(4)Pitfalls in the Treatment of [Geriatric Traumatic Brain Injury](#)]. No Shinkei Geka. 2018 Dec;46(12):1127-1135. doi: 10.11477/mf.1436203880. Japanese. PubMed PMID: 30572311.

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Shimoda K, Maeda T, Tado M, Yoshino A, Katayama Y, Bullock MR. Outcome and surgical management for geriatric traumatic brain injury: Analysis of 888 cases registered in the Japan Neurotrauma Data Bank. World Neurosurg. 2014 Aug 13. pii: S1878-8750(14)00732-3. doi: 10.1016/j.wneu.2014.08.014. [Epub ahead of print] Review. PubMed PMID: 25128777.

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