**REPORT**

###### Tuesday, July 25, 2017

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**“Evaluation of Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy in Football Players”**

**TEASE RUNS: 8 seconds**

**WHAT CAN THE DONATED BRAINS OF DECEASED FOOTBALL PLAYERS TELL US ABOUT CHRONIC TRAUMATIC ENCEPHALOPATHY OR CTE? A NEW STUDY INVESTIGATES. … THAT’S NEXT.**

**JAMA 4061**

**TRT: 2:09**

**Tuesday, July 25, 2017, 11 AM ET**

**INTRO: Chronic traumatic encephalopathy -- or CTE -- is a progressive degenerative brain disease associated with repetitive head trauma. Currently, CTE can only be confirmed post-mortem. In a new study from JAMA, researchers examined the brains of 202 deceased former football players -- more than half of them from the NFL -- and talked to their family members to identify pathological and clinical features of CTE. Laura Berger has more in this week’s JAMA report.**

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| **B ROLL:**  **Mike Adamle looking at photos of himself playing football**  **SOT/FULL**  **Mike Adamle**  **Super@: 10**  **Runs: 5** | FORMER NFL RUNNING BACK MIKE ADAMLE RECENTLY RETIRED FROM SPORTSCASTING AND HE IS LIVING WITH WHAT HE SAYS DOCTORS BELIEVE MAY BE CHRONIC TRAUMATIC ENCEPHALOPATHY OR CTE. **“The only thing that I remember was that he said you have symptoms that are concurrent with CTE.”** |
| **B-ROLL:**  **Adamle exercising and doing a puzzle** | **ADAMLE HAS GOOD DAYS AND BAD DAYS. HE DOES WHAT HE CAN TO COMBAT THE DEPRESSION, FRUSTRATION AND FORGETFULNESS HE FACES WITH EXERCISE, DIET, AND COGNITIVE STIMULATION. HE LEANS ON FRIENDS AND FAMILY.** |
| **SOT/FULL**  **Mike Adamle**  **Super@: 27**  **Runs: 16** | **“We’ve got sort of a fraternity of players who just, you know, call each other up whenever we need it, and, you know, for lack of a better phrase, talk each other off the ledge, you know. Because you do really get paranoid, and depressed.** |
| **B ROLL:**  **Dr. McKee in hall, looking at brains, looking at microscope slides of brains** | **IN A NEW STUDY, DR. ANN MCKEE OF THE VA BOSTON HEALTHCARE SYSTEM AND THE BOSTON UNIVERSITY CTE CENTER STUDIED THE DONATED BRAINS OF DECEASED FORMER FOOTBALL PLAYERS WHO PLAYED IN HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE AND THE PROS.**  **THEIR BRAINS WERE EXAMINED FOR SIGNS OF CTE AND PLAYERS’ NEXT OF KIN PROVIDED INFORMATION ABOUT ATHLETIC HISTORIES, MOOD AND COGNITIVE SYMPTOMS.**  **CTE CAN ONLY BE CONFIRMED POST-MORTEM.**  **PATHOLOGIC EVIDENCE OF CTE WAS FOUND IN 177 OF THE 202 FORMER PLAYERS, INCLUDING 110 OF THE 111 NFL PLAYERS WHOSE BRAINS WERE STUDIED.**  **THE STUDY APPEARS IN JAMA, THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.** |
| **SOT/FULL**  **Ann C. McKee MD, VA Boston Healthcare System, Boston University CTE Center**  **Super@: 1:21**  **Runs: 30**  **(brain b roll in middle of sound bite)**  **BROLL:**  **Brain renderings** | **“The main results were there was a shockingly high percentage of CTE amongst the brain donors. That is we found 110 out of 111 former NFL players had diagnostic lesions of CTE at autopsy, we found 91 percent of college players … and we found even evidence of CTE in some high school players about 3 of 14 or 21 percent. So this says to us that CTE is a problem, it is a problem associated with football.”**  **THERE ARE CAVEATS TO THE STUDY, INCLUDING THAT BRAIN BANK DONORS DON’T REPRESENT THE OVERALL POPULATION OF FORMER FOOTBALL PLAYERS.** |
| **BROLL: photos of Adamle playing football** | **ADAMLE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE GAME HE LOVES BE SAFER.** |
| **SOT/FULL**  **Mike Adamle**  **Super@: 2:02**  **Runs: 5** | **“Whether they can do that over a period of time in the next 20 years, I’m not certain, I don’t think anybody’s certain.”** |
| **B-ROLL: photo of Adamle from Chicago Bears** | **LAURA BERGER, THE JAMA REPORT** |

**TAG: THESE FINDINGS SUGGEST THAT CTE MAY BE RELATED TO PRIOR PARTICIPATION IN FOOTBALL.**

**Please see the complete study for additional information, including other authors, author contributions and affiliations, financial disclosures, funding and support, etc.**

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**ADDITIONAL SOUNDBITES:**

**ADAMLE QUOTE 1 Runs: 36 seconds**

**“Putting yourself in the line of fire if you will, when you walked out into the field it was thrilling and I think a lot of players looked at themselves as rock stars or performers is a better word, you gave, you’d put all of your energy into yourself because those people paid money and they were there to watch you play and I think we all thought that we owed them something.”**

**MCKEE QUOTE 2 Runs: 29 seconds**

**“So what I would like to see going forward is a comprehensive, collective determination to solve this CTE problem. That is, how can we diagnose it in young players so they can stop playing when they’re already developing signs of it, and how can we treat it in players that are concerned that they already have it. These to me are enormous public health concerns that we need to address right away.”**