



# Why am I being screened for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)?

VA wants to provide you the highest quality health care. We offer all veterans and active duty service members who served in the combat theaters of Iraq or Afghanistan screening for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).

## You are at risk for TBI if you were involved in a:

- Blast or explosion (IED, RPG, Land Mines, Grenades, etc.)
- Vehicular accident/crash
- Fragment wound above the shoulder
- Fall

If you choose to be screened, you and your health care team will get important information about your health. The screening may bring up issues or concerns that you have not thought about before. If you have TBI, we can start treatment more quickly and help you better manage symptoms.

You have the right to refuse TBI screening. This will not affect your on-going care in the VA or access to other services.

## What is the screening test?

A member of the health care team will ask you some questions about your current health and combat experiences. It takes about 5 minutes to answer the questions.

## How often will I need to be screened?

The VA recommends screening for TBI after each deployment.

## When will I get my results?

We will tell you right after the screening if your test results are positive or negative.

## What does it mean if my screening is positive?

Positive screening does not necessarily mean you have TBI. It means that you are noticing some symptoms like those of people who have TBI. Your symptoms may also be due to other medical conditions.



# What will happen if I have a positive screening?

If you agree, we will refer you to health care providers with special training in treating veterans with TBI. These TBI specialists may be at a different VA facility from where you received your screening. They will further evaluate you. This will help you and your local health care providers better understand your condition and how to care for you. Within one week, a staff member will contact you to make sure that you receive the follow-up appointment and to answer your questions.

## What if I decide I don't want to be referred?

You have the right to decide to not be referred for further testing and evaluation. This will not affect any other medical care you receive from VA.

## What does it mean if my screening is negative?

This means that you are not having signs or symptoms of brain injury at this time.

## Who can I talk to about my concerns/get more information about this?

Please talk with your health care team about TBI or any other health issues you have. You will find more information about TBI at the following web sites:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/tbi/TBI.htm>

<http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/tbi/tbi.htm>

<http://www.dvbic.org/index.html>

