

# Unravelling the biopsychosocial factors of fatigue and sleep complaints after traumatic brain injury

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Examining the development of fatigue and sleep complaints following moderate to severe TBI and exploring the underlying causes within a biopsychosocial model. We hypothesize that biological factors are associated with sleep complaints and fatigue in...

<b>Ethical review</b>	Approved WMO
<b>Status</b>	Recruitment stopped
<b>Health condition type</b>	Structural brain disorders
<b>Study type</b>	Observational non invasive

## Summary

### ID

NL-OMON50267

### Source

ToetsingOnline

### Brief title

Sleep and fatigue following TBI

### Condition

- Structural brain disorders

### Synonym

Brain contusion, Traumatic brain injury

### Research involving

Human

### Sponsors and support

**Primary sponsor:** Universiteit Maastricht

**Source(s) of monetary or material Support:** Ministerie van OC&W

## Intervention

**Keyword:** Biopsychosocial model, Fatigue, Sleep, Traumatic brain injury

## Outcome measures

### Primary outcome

The development of subjective sleep and fatigue complaints following TBI and possible underlying biological (pain, brain damage), psychological (emotional state) and social (support family, participation) factors.

### Secondary outcome

The development of objectively measured sleep-wake disturbances and fatigue following TBI and possible underlying biological (pain, brain damage), psychological (emotional state) and social (support family, participation) factors.

## Study description

### Background summary

Moderate to severe traumatic brain injury (TBI) can drastically impact the quality of life (QOL) and participation of the patient and their family and friends. It is often referred to as a silent epidemic due to lack of public and healthcare awareness. Sleep complaints and fatigue are common symptoms and play a significant role in the disease process and are associated with additional symptoms such as depression, anxiety, and pain. Patients experience sleep-wake disturbances (SWD) and fatigue as one of the most distressing symptoms and subsequently these symptoms influence the recovery trajectory. The etiology is still debated, uncertain and no efficacious treatment has been established. The development over time and the underlying causes of persistent fatigue and sleep complaints still need to be examined for the moderate to severe TBI spectrum. This study will therefore examine the development of sleep and fatigue following moderate to severe TBI and the role biopsychosocial factors play in persistent sleep complaints and fatigue over time. Identifying underlying causes of persistent sleep complaints and fatigue post-TBI can give direction and rationale for the development of interventions and treatment of these

symptoms.

## **Study objective**

Examining the development of fatigue and sleep complaints following moderate to severe TBI and exploring the underlying causes within a biopsychosocial model. We hypothesize that biological factors are associated with sleep complaints and fatigue in the first 3-6 months following injury and that psychological factors are associated with sleep complaints and fatigue over time starting at 6 months. Social factors will start playing a role later in the disease process and are expected to be associated with sleep complaints and fatigue between 12 and 18 months.

## **Study design**

Longitudinal multicentre observational cohort study with 4 measurement points (3, 6, 12 and 18 months post injury). In addition, there is screening visit within the first 6 weeks, if the patient meets the in- and exclusion criteria the study will continue and demographics and pre-injury characteristic will be determined. This screening visit can take place at the home of the participant or if preferred by the participant at Maastricht University or the participating hospital. The 4 measurement points will consist of subjective questionnaires and cognitive tasks and take place at Maastricht University or one of the participating hospitals. In the week prior to these visits the participants will wear a watch-like device (actigraph) and fill in sleep diaries every morning for 1 week. During this week participants can continue normal routines in the natural environment.

## **Study burden and risks**

The burden and risks associated with participation are considered to be limited. The burden of this study consists of 5 visits and filling in a sleep diary during 1 week for four times in the course of 18 months. There is no physical or physiological discomfort associated with participation. Iatrogenic risks of this study are considered negligible due to its observational nature.

## **Contacts**

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## **Trial sites**

### **Listed location countries**

Netherlands

## **Eligibility criteria**

### **Age**

Adults (18-64 years)

Elderly (65 years and older)

### **Inclusion criteria**

- First moderate-severe, closed-head injury TBI
- Age 21 - 80
- Fluent in Dutch
- Informed consent (IC)

### **Exclusion criteria**

- Prior moderate-severe TBI diagnosed by a neurologist
- Mild concussion in the last half year
- Pre-existing neurological disorder or a brain injury with an etiology other than trauma: Stroke, idiopathic epilepsy, brain tumor, multiple sclerosis, Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease, meningitis, encephalitis
- History of drug and/or alcohol abuse (addiction or long term abuse, does not include a night of binge drinking/alcohol intoxication during the accident)
- Sleep disorders prior to TBI (diagnosed or treated for a sleep disorders)
- Chronic fatigue syndrome prior to TBI
- Sleep-wake patterns disturbances or fatigue due to another medical condition than TBI
- Mental disorders for which treatment was necessary (i.e. medication or

psychological/psychiatric treatments; post-injury depression, anxiety disorders  
no exclusion)  
- Pregnancy  
- Lacking the ability to complete questionnaires based on clinical judgment  
(aphasia, severe cognitive impairment).

## Study design

### Design

**Study type:** Observational non invasive

Masking: Open (masking not used)

Control: Uncontrolled

Primary purpose: Basic science

### Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status: Recruitment stopped

Start date (anticipated): 27-11-2017

Enrollment: 137

Type: Actual

## Ethics review

Approved WMO

Date: 05-07-2017

Application type: First submission

Review commission: METC academisch ziekenhuis Maastricht/Universiteit  
Maastricht, METC azM/UM (Maastricht)

Approved WMO

Date: 18-10-2017

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC academisch ziekenhuis Maastricht/Universiteit  
Maastricht, METC azM/UM (Maastricht)

Approved WMO

Date: 21-02-2018

Application type:	Amendment
Review commission:	METC academisch ziekenhuis Maastricht/Universiteit Maastricht, METC azM/UM (Maastricht)
Approved WMO	
Date:	31-12-2018
Application type:	Amendment
Review commission:	METC academisch ziekenhuis Maastricht/Universiteit Maastricht, METC azM/UM (Maastricht)
Approved WMO	
Date:	22-02-2019
Application type:	Amendment
Review commission:	METC academisch ziekenhuis Maastricht/Universiteit Maastricht, METC azM/UM (Maastricht)

## Study registrations

### Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

### Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

ID: 21103

Source: Nationaal Trial Register

Title:

### In other registers

Register	ID
CCMO	NL60332.068.17

## Study results

Date completed: 24-05-2024

### Summary results

Trial ended prematurely