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can i just mention agree here i'm not sure matthew do we you you old enough to remember jeff astle ihat by a great english player much loved people of my generation the reason that jeffers famous is not only that he was a cracking striker but he was a famous header of the ball and sadly astle died suffering from alzheimer's in 1993 other verdict on his death extraordinarily bearing in mind his amazing history heading the ball was death by industrial injury that leads into the next tory yes this is me talk about should we worry constantly had a football says study has been published today is that

suggest doing that could and size could cause dementia the ex players involved in the study 12 view eventually died of advanced dementia or began playing football and heading the ball when the children or teenagers we professor john hardy here with says he is the co author of the study a professor of neuroscience at university college london welcome to the programme professor can't just tell us a little bit about this specific studies focused on a group of retired footballers that's right that played on average of 13 29 30 years they had a bit of been professional who all but one of them professional footballers they came to autopsy and the brain autopsy was done in our department and of the 6 of them for ever had the distinctive evidence uf what we call a chronic traumatic encephalopathy that very distinctive feature which we see him boxes as well as of 4 of the 6 had evidence of a head injury what which one did you find most

surprising how do we mean in terms of a the results we surprised by found deep these psychiatry to collected the families whose book called don williams from swansea he had been a what he had suspected that this had been the case so we know we're not surprised and we've been doing other studies of x 4 x boxes so we're not entirely surprised ain't it is worth saying that this is a tentative study add this is a small small research but is it enough to say at this stage that there is a risk when it comes to football yes i think we have to be clear that these people have played football probably every day for 25 to 30 years and been practising and probably practising heading they probably also had a big clash of heads and concussion that way so we know it's more complicated than just saying it's heading the ball but they had certainly been a professional sport

ports closed for 30 years i think it's that debt its we should draw a distinction really between playing games once a week and kids play this is a you have parents listening in thinking what about my children that that like tip play football di one of my fondest memories was on a school playground with alice 13 scoring heady a goal goal from a corner and you know i wish i could do that now it was you know i think we be d9 pleasure to our kids if we just cut things out completely we have to also balancing about up against the danger of bringing up a generation of couch potatoes exactly and buys voters were also mentioning that the fa agreed to support this research right so this this is a sign that that they are that that they are acknowledging that there is a problem but they did not support this particular research this was supported by a foundation called drake foundation but you're right that they have and the professional footballers association

decided to try and follow this type of work up and they're now starting to to do follow ups that is the any comparison at all the situation in american football gridiron because they obviously have much harder greater head concussions but it has led to be campaigning on behalf of ex pros who suffered brain damage of some kind or another is there anything in your studied the you think might be the basis of legal claim all legal argument i-i-i don't want to go into that because i'd done a lot xii see wires expertly off but let me just say that the the football association in the professional footballers association are behaving differently from the nfl the nfl got themselves into a deep mess by denying denying denying as even when the and suppressing evidence whereas this has not happened here in the uk with the fa and the professional footballers association of who really seem to me to be trying to get ahead of this the

a the evidence is new we only had a couple of individual case reports which were reported in in fact in the scientific literature before this is the 1st if you like sit set-ups the study is published in the scientific literature the fa is really high think my impress thing is that the track and took them to be doing it for fun is ok to arrive do we know he is a good message to get out there many thanks indeed professor john hardy pressure euro science at university college london