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Now back to Kate and Charlotte, who have more on a new study which highlights the risk of heading in football. Lots of concerns, Sean. There are fresh fears this morning that heading a football raises the risk of developing dementia after a study found evidence of brain damage in former players. It comes 15 years after the death of former England and West Brom striker Jeff Astle, whose inquest suggested he died as a result of repeatedly heading footballs. We're joined now from Derbyshire this morning by Jeff's daughter Dawn Astle and in the studio by Peter McCabe from the brain injury association Headway. Good to speak to. you. I know we've spoken to you about this before, Dawn. What you make of these findings that there seems to be a

link? . I think my initial reaction is, I'm not surprised at all. Because of what the coroner said about Dad nearly 15 years ago that the repeating of heading made a significant contribution to the disease that killed him. We knew that he would not be the only one. He was the first British footballer to be positively diagnosed with having CTE after his brain was re-examined, but we knew he would not be the first and he will certainly not be the last. Only 14 former players were involved in the study. Is it enough evidence to be able to say that something should be done about this? . We think there was enough evidence 15 years ago for

the footballing authorities to look into this. There are hundreds and hundreds of them, possibly thousands and thousands of former footballers who have died or are living with consequences of dementia. It's football's responsibility, the governing body of the sport and also the PFA, whose existence is about player welfare, it's disappointing that neither of the organisations have done anything regarding research and also helping the former players. One of the problems is that the indications are so huge. Not just for professional footballers like your dad, but for those who enjoy a Saturday game of football, for young children with their brains, not properly formed. The idea that this may be leading to these terrible consequences is so huge for football generally, it must make everybody in authority very

nervous. Extremely nervous. I can't help but think that's why nothing has happened. I think the game is terrified of the findings. It's the game that all these children play and that's my dad lived for and sadly died for, and it could be a killer. Peter, let us bring you in. Is this enough evidence to say that something should be done about this? . We've known for some time, to some extent through the work of Dawn, but there is some evidence, but we've also been aware that the studies conducted are very small and this is a further example. There are 14 people involved in this. There are so many variables here. For example, when Jeff Astle was playing, you saw

an image of him heading the ball. That was an old leather football. I can recall when it was wet, they gathered of water and it's like heading a lump of concrete. How worried should parents be in this day and age? Dawn is right. We need more research. This certainly isn't the evidence to make a decision here and now about the youngsters playing football today. That such a risk. There will always be small studies because you are relying on former footballers donating them brains. As far as I understand it, if that's heading the hardball, if you have any kind of impact. It's a frightening risk. Both my sons

played football with a very different sort of ball. My grandson plays football now. We are saying it's time for the FA to fund proper research over a long-term basis to give parents and grandparents. The answer is that they need and then make sensible decisions. Dawn, would you ban heading the ball? I think that's really difficult. I think the key of it is we all know the benefits of dissipation in sport. But it should never be, brain damage should never be seen as an acceptable consequence. I think we should be erring on the side of caution. As far as the heavy balls are concerned, there is no evidence whatsoever to suggest that the modern day ball is any safer. Thank you very much to you both. More research urgently needed. The FA have said they welcomed the research so far. They say they take seriously the concerns about head injuries.