**[ITV Evening News](https://scout.tveyes.com/)**

02/15/2017 06:50:20 PM

* [ITV 1 London](https://scout.tveyes.com/) /

* [U.K. National](https://scout.tveyes.com/)

. A new study claims to have found a link between **football and dementia**. The issue has been highlighted by the case of former England striker Jeff Astle. His family believe his dementia was caused by repeatedly heading footballs throughout his long career. Sejal Karia has the details. Jeff Astle, ex-England and West Brom striker, a celebrated footballer - a legend to many, who died not even knowing he had played the game. He had been living with dementia it was caused by brain damage and his family believe from repeatedly heading from repeatedly heading footballs. Dad's job had killed him. And when he died, he was sat, he was lay, surrounded by his England caps, his FA Cup winner's medal, his League Cup winner's medal. Everything that he won in football, football took away. While they welcomed today's small-scale study that reveals a possible link between **football and dementia**,

his family want the FA to fulfil its promise to carry out more detailed research - one it began but never completed. When we have been accused of scaremongering, compensation chasing, wanting heading the ball banned in football - we have never once asked for any of that. And the families that have been in touch with us, they want answers. Today's research shows tentative evidence of a link. A very small study examined the brains of six footballers who played for an average of 26 years. Post-mortems found all six had signs of Alzheimer's disease, while four also showed evidence of a degenerative disease linked to repeated blows to the head. Throughout their 20 years or so career, they would have headed the ball thousands of times. But other than that, footballers are also exposed to other head impacts as well.

The FA has promised to support a more detailed study - research the Astle family say that will help footballers make informed choices.