**[Sunrise With Sarah-Jane Mee](https://scout.tveyes.com/)**

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

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

 This story on the front of the daily Mirror, about football and links to dementia, this is about heading the football, scientists have finally found a link between long-term brain damage and heading the football. How much does that worry you as a mother of a young son, most boys will want to go out and play football, or rugby or boxing, there will be some kind of sports that will have an impact on their young skulls. Exactly, it is balancing the benefit of doing sport

with something which will damage them. I have got a three year and damaging his long-term mental health is a scary prospect. In America, the new newspaper report said, they have enforced ban, in 2010 they had 50,000 cases of concussion. It is a real concern and the reason why there is such a lag in terms of identifying this problem is that, again, sorry to be morbid, the way in which it is identified is looking at the brain patterns of people who have passed away. They noticed that four out of six footballers that they assessed had some sort of impact that was impacting their mental health. We have seen it so many times, talking about the long-term damage to footballers in this case, but we have seen it so maybe times on the sports field where a player has been knocked out, they are taken off the pitch and then they often reappear. Yes, and in rugby it is particularly

prevalent, you can be concussed and you are not allowed to play for a certain amount of time, same in boxing, if you get knocked out you have to wait before you can fight again. This has been around for a long time, the link with dementia or head injuries. And the FA have known about it and football governing bodies have known about it and they have been urged to put together investigations and teams and people to look at this specifically, and although the teams may have been put together, nothing has been done and nothing has been published and you have to ask the question, why? What are you afraid of, are you afraid that people are going to come out of the woodwork and to you? Maybe? -- and Sue you? If there is a massive link and they can prove it, children should not head footballs until they are over 18. Or they could at least do something about it. The football has gone from being a hard leather

ball to something which is lighter, so if the information is there, we can do something about it. So hiding it is a concern. This has been talked about before, Jeff Astle was the first footballer to be confirmed of dying of heading the ball, the damage it did his brain, his family have been campaigning for a long time. Now the research is backing that up. We will be talking about that throughout the day here.