**FOOTIE HEADS KILLER**

**At least 12 ex footballers have ‘died from dementia caused by HEADING the ball’**

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Brain disease has previously been linked to boxing and American footbal

**AT least 12 former footballers have died from dementia caused by heading the ball, a study suggests.**

The brain disease has previously been linked to boxing and American football, where there are repeated head blows.

But experts have now identified British footie players as victims for the first time.

They analysed 14 patients who played the game, 13 of them professionally, for an average of 26 years from childhood.

All were diagnosed with dementia between 1980 and 2010 and twelve died of it.

Post mortems found sticky brain plaques in four out of six — a possible cause of dementia from blows.

All six also had signs of Alzheimer’s, University College London found.

Prof Huw Morris said it underlines the “pressing” need for more research into whether dem­entia is more common in footballers.