

# Suicide risk *Telegraph* 21/12/2016

SIR - The Conservative MP Sarah Wollaston (report, telegraph.co.uk, December 20) rightly urges the Government to "identify suicide risks".

There is a very grave risk which the national suicide strategy does not take into account. There is compelling research to demonstrate that head-injury survivors - even survivors of concussion - are at particular risk of suicide, and should receive the same attention and supervision from medical professionals as other high-risk groups, such as prisoners, mental health patients and those with a history of self-harm.

A large epidemiological survey carried out in Denmark, which covered 145,440 head-injury patients, noted that suicides were more than double the norm after skull fracture, triple after concussion and four times after brain haemorrhage.

If my husband and I had known this we would have been more vigilant with our own son after his head injury, and might not have lost him to suicide.

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