

brain injury, it is hard to use as a single biomarker sufficient to exclude brain injury. However, further combination with other laboratory data might increase the exclusivity rate.

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Comments and Clarifications Regarding "Improved Characterization of Combat Injury"

To the Editor:

The Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine (AAAM) and its Abbreviated Injury Scale (AIS) Committee members read with interest the manuscript, "Improved Characterization of Combat Injury."¹ We agree with the importance of adequate and valid injury severity characterization, as proven

by >40 years of work on the subject. However, we find the need to provide a few comments and clarifications:

- Conceptually, whether any scale provides "a more precise assignment of severity to severity of injuries" is an analytical finding that requires the use of an alternative scale to serve as comparison. It also requires that an ultimate goal (e.g., mortality prediction) be used as the criterion for validity. In the manuscript, we failed to see either of these issues defined.
- Dr. Champion was a member of the AIS 2005 committee led by Dr. Gennarelli and Ms. MacKay, under the sponsorship and ownership of AAAM. This committee included seven additional members not acknowledged in the article but recognized in the AIS 2005 dictionary.
- The manuscript fails to note that only a small fraction (<1%) of all AIS 2005 codes or descriptors are different in the so-introduced AIS 2005 military. These differences reside in either assigning a more severe code to an existing injury descriptor or in creating a small number of additional descriptors.
- In the cited manuscript, full recognition (and citation) of AIS 2005 is missing.²
- The AIS is a copyright protected product of the AAAM. Although we strongly support work to improve the scale and expand coverage of more

injuries—as evidenced by almost 40 years of such progress with multiple versions developed over time—we are also mandated to monitor the quality of such developments. Currently, the AIS committee is working with the U.S. Department of Defense to perform an evaluation of the AIS 2005-military codes.

We are very happy to see the AIS continue to grow in terms of applications and uses. We are also delighted that peer reviewed publications are presenting results derived from the application of AIS, which was developed as a research tool for motor vehicle safety but has grown to encompass a larger array of injury mechanisms. For more information on AIS and the uses of this licensed product, please visit www.aaam.org.

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