Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE)

Prelims - *Current events of national and international importance | General Science | Health*

Why in News?

Football Player, Shane Tamura who killed four people in New York claimed he was suffering from chronic traumatic encephalopathy.

- **Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE)** – It is a ***progressive brain disorder*** caused by repeated head injuries or concussions.

> *Concussions cause the brain to move rapidly within the skull, potentially stretching and damaging brain cells.*

- The term "CTE" stands for:
  - **Chronic** - Long-lasting and ongoing.
  - **Traumatic** – Linked to injury to trauma.
  - **Encephalopathy** – A disease of the brain.
- **Symptoms -** Early symptoms like Depression, aggression, mood swings, and personality changes.
- As the disease progresses, people may experience confusion, memory loss, and difficulty with planning or decision-making.
- In advanced cases, movement problems can also develop.
- **Common Occurrence -** CTE has been most commonly observed in athletes involved in sports such as football, boxing, and hockey, as well as military veterans exposed to blast injuries.
- Victims of domestic violence or others with a history of frequent head injuries.
- **Diagnosis** - The disease can *only be definitively diagnosed after death, during autopsy.*
- **Treatment -** Currently ***no treatment*** or cure for CTE.

Quick Facts

• **Commotio Celebri -** Hippocrates described commotio celebri, '*commotion of the brain*' as a vigorous shake or blow to the head that caused temporary loss of speech, hearing, and sight.
• **Punck Drunk Syndrome** - Martland coined the term "Punch drunk" to describe this disease that afflicted pugilists.
• First identified in 1920's among boxers. It most often affects fighters of the who are usually poor boxers and who take considerable head punishment, seeking only to land a knockout blow.

References

1. Mint | Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE)
2. Indian Express| All about CTE
3. Medicover Hospital | What is CTE



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