5. Service connection for hiatal hernia to include as secondary to the service-connected disabilities of thoracolumbar spine degenerative joint disease and degenerative disc disease and hypertensive heart disease.

Service connection may be granted for a disability which began in military service or was caused by some event or experience in service. (38 CFR 3.303) Service connection may be granted for a disease or injury which resulted from a service-connected disability or was aggravated thereby. (38 CFR 3.310)

The evidence does not show an event, disease or injury in service. Your service treatment records do not contain complaints, treatment, or diagnosis for this condition.

The VA medical opinion found no link between your diagnosed hiatal hernia and your service-connected disabilities of thoracolumbar spine degenerative joint disease and degenerative disc disease and hypertensive heart disease.

The evidence does not show that hiatal hernia is related to the service-connected conditions of thoracolumbar spine degenerative joint disease and degenerative disc disease and hypertensive heart disease, nor is there any evidence of this disability during military service. (38 CFR 3.303, 38 CFR 3.304, 38 CFR 3.310) Service connection for hiatal hernia is denied since this condition neither occurred in nor was caused by service. (38 CFR 3.303, 38 CFR 3.304)

Favorable Findings identified in this decision:

The claimed primary disability is service-connected. You are service connected for thoracolumbar spine degenerative joint disease and degenerative disc disease.

The claimed primary disability is service-connected. You are service connected for hypertensive heart disease.

You have been diagnosed with a disability. The VA contract examination dated April 21, 2021, shows you have a diagnosis hiatal hernia.

6. Service connection for Barrett's esophagus to include as secondary to the service-connected disabilities of thoracolumbar spine degenerative joint disease and degenerative disc disease and hypertensive heart disease.

Service connection may be granted for a disability which began in military service or was caused by some event or experience in service. (38 CFR 3.303) Service connection may be granted for a disease or injury which resulted from a service-connected disability or was aggravated thereby. (38 CFR 3.310)

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