Tunk's Classification Scheme

Assessment Overview

Assessment Area

ICF Domain:
Body Function
Subcategory:
Sensory Functions

You Will Need

Length:
15-20 minutes
Administration:
Clinician-administered; information is obtained through a semi-structured interview
Training:
No formal training is required but knowledge about neuro-anatomy and physiology, specifically sensation and theories of pain, is an asset.

Summary

Tunk's Classification Scheme identifies 11 types of pain for those with SCI according to the lesion level.

Above the lesion level:

1) Myofacial
2) Syringomyelia
3) Non spinal cord

At the lesion level:

4) Radicular
5) Hyperalgesic border reaction
6) Fracture
7) Myofacial (incomplete lesion)

Below the lesion level:

8) Diffuse burning
9) Phantom
10) Visceral
11) Myofacial (incomplete lesion)

This allows clinicians to differentiate between types and locations of pain, and is therefore most useful for people with complex pain.

Availability

Can be found in:

Putzke JD, Richards JS, Ness T, Kezar L. Interrater reliability of the International Association for the Study of Pain and Tunks' spinal cord injury pain classification schemes. Am J Phys Med Rehabil 2003; 82(6), 437-440.
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12820785

Assessment Interpretability

Minimal Clinically Important Difference

Not established in SCI

Statistical Error

Not established in SCI

Typical Values

Not established in SCI

Measurement Properties

Validity

Not established in SCI

Reliability – Low to Moderate

Low **to** ***Moderate*** **Inter-rater reliability between 3 raters:**
Kappa coefficient = 0.33-0.65

Rate of agreement across all raters = 17%

(Putzke et al. 2003; n=29, mixed injury types, > 1 year post-injury)

Number of studies reporting reliability data: 1

Responsiveness

Floor/Ceiling Effect:
Not established in SCI

Effect Size:
Not established in SCI

Number of studies reporting responsiveness data: 0