

Spinal Cord Injury Pressure Ulcer Scale – Acute (SCIPUS-A)

Assessment Overview

Assessment Area

ICF Domain:

Body Functions

Subcategory:

Functions of the Skin

Subscales (domains):

- 1) Extent of paralysis;
- 2) Moisture;
- 3) Serum creatinine;
- 4) Incontinence;
- 5) Albumin;
- 6) Mobility;
- 7) Pulmonary disease;
- 8) Level of activity.

You Will Need

Length:

8 items

Scoring:

Items are scored dichotomously (0,1 or 0,2) or have 3 to 5 options. Scores are based on descriptive criteria provided on the scoring sheet.

Total score (0-25) is the sum of all item scores.

Lower scores indicate better prognosis.

Summary

The Spinal Cord Injury Pressure Ulcer Scale – Acute (SCIPUS-A) is a clinician-administered scale developed as a measure of the risk for pressure ulcer development for individuals with SCI during the acute phase of injury (within 30 days of admission). Items for the scale were identified based on statistical analysis of data from 226 individuals with SCI, which compared development of pressure ulcers with demographic variables and 50 potential pressure ulcer risk factors.

There is minimal burden related to administering or scoring the scale if tests for albumin and serum creatinine are already part of the patient's medical record. Otherwise the blood tests required would be invasive and create respondent burden.

Availability

Available for free here: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/10326341/>

Languages: English

Assessment Interpretability

Minimal Clinically Important Difference

Not established in SCI

Statistical Error

Not established in SCI

Typical Values

Mean (Range) Scores:

All patients (n=144): 12.8 (12-13.6)

Patients w/ ulcers at any stage (n=80): 14.9 (14-15.9)

Patients w/ no ulcers at any stage (n=64): 10.1 (9.6-10.6)

(Ash, 2002; n=144; mixed injury type, mean time from injury to discharge = 152 (range: 9–506) days)

Risk rating:

0-12 = low risk

13-18 = moderate risk

19-20 = high risk

21-25 = very high risk

(Salzberg et al. 1999; n=226, 188 male, acute, traumatic SCI, mixed injury types)

Measurement Properties

Validity – **Moderate**

Moderate correlations between the stage of the first pressure ulcer and all of the scales:

$r = 0.488$

Moderate correlations between the number of ulcers developed and all of the scales:

$r = 0.519$

(Salzberg et al. 1999; n=226, 188 male, acute, traumatic SCI, mixed injury types)

Moderate ROC Analysis:

AUC = 0.78

(Ash, 2002; n=144; mixed injury type, mean time from injury to discharge = 152 (range: 9–506) days)

Number of studies reporting validity data: 2

Reliability

Not established in SCI

Responsiveness

Floor/Ceiling Effect:

Not established in SCI

Effect Size:

Not established in SCI

Number of studies reporting

responsiveness data: 0