

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 low risk for pressure ulcer development.

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). The [SCIPUS](#) is designed to be used for individuals with SCI who are in a rehabilitation centre (i.e., after acute, and being community/outpatient/at home).

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

Worksheet: Can be found in the appendix of the following article: <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; mean age: 40 years; 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 males; mean (SD) age: 33.2 (15.2) years; acute SCI)

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 males; mean (SD) age: 33.2 (15.2) years; acute SCI)

Moderate ROC Analysis:

AUC = 0.78

(Ash 2002; n=144; mean age: 40 years; mean time from injury to discharge: 152 (range: 9–506) days)

Number of studies reporting validity data: 2

Reliability – **Not established**

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