

Spinal Cord Injury Pressure Ulcer Scale (SCIPUS)

Assessment Overview

Assessment Area

ICF Domain:

Body Function

Subcategory:

Functions of the Skin

You Will Need

Length:

15 items

Scoring:

By adding domain scores together a summary score (0-25) is calculated. Lower scores indicate low risk for pressure ulcer development.

Summary

The Spinal Cord Injury Pressure Ulcer Scale (SCIPUS) is a clinician-administered measure developed to assess the risk for pressure ulcer development for individuals with SCI who are in a rehabilitation centre (i.e., after acute, and being community/outpatient/at home). The [SCIPUS-A](#) is a version designed from the SCIPUS to be used in the acute care setting (within 30 days of injury).

Rating is based on personal knowledge of the client or chart review. Blood tests are required if tests for diabetes, albumin and hemocrit are not already part of the patient's medical record.

Availability

Worksheet: Can be found [here](#).

Languages: English

Assessment Interpretability

Minimal Clinically Important Difference

Not established in SCI

Statistical Error

Not established in SCI

Typical Values

Threshold Values:

Score of ≥ 6 has been suggested to indicate risk for pressure ulcer development.

(Salzberg et al. 1996; n=219; 217 males, 2 females; traumatic SCI, mean (SD) time from injury to last follow up = 17.2 (12.1) years)

Measurement Properties

Validity – **Low** to **Moderate**

Moderate correlation with stage of first pressure ulcer:

$\rho = 0.34$

Moderate correlation with number of pressure ulcers:

$\rho = 0.34$

(Salzberg et al. 1999; n=226; 188 males, 38 females; acute traumatic SCI, within 30 days of admission)

Low accuracy of “high risk” categorization (cut-off scores of ≥ 6 , ≥ 7 , ≥ 8):

AUC < 0.70

(Delparte et al. 2015; n=759; 509 males, 250 females; mean (SD) age: 53.9 (18.5) years; 16% complete injury, 84% incomplete injury; 53% paraplegia, 47% quadriplegia; mean (SD) time since injury: 84.9 (379.7) days)

Number of studies reporting validity data: 3

Reliability – **Low** to **High**

High Inter-rater Reliability:

ICC = 0.91

(Delparte et al. 2015; n=759; 509 males, 250 females; mean (SD) age: 53.9 (18.5) years; 16% complete injury, 84% incomplete injury; 53% paraplegia, 47% quadriplegia; mean (SD) time since injury: 84.9 (379.7) days)

Low Internal Consistency:

Person Separation Index (PSI) = 0.44

(Higgins et al. 2019; n=886; 59% males; median age [interquartile range] 56 [28]; ASIA A-D; etiology: 56% non-traumatic, 44% traumatic)

Number of studies reporting reliability data: 2

Responsiveness

Floor/Ceiling Effect:

Not established in SCI

Effect Size:

Not established in SCI

Number of studies reporting

responsiveness data: 0