

Abruzzese Scale

Assessment Overview

Assessment Area

ICF Domain:

Body Function

Subcategory:

Functions of the Skin

You Will Need

Length:

5-10 minutes to complete 9 items

Scoring:

- Raters score risks of developing pressure ulcers based on personal observation or chart review
- Items are scored on a 4-point scale, either 0 – 3, or 0, 1, 4, 6 depending on the item
- Addition of the scores from each of the 9 items produces an overall score between 0 (best prognosis) and 30 (worst prognosis)

Equipment: None

Training: None, but knowledge of skin health is helpful.

Summary

The Abruzzese Scale is based on the Norton and Gosnell scales. It is a clinician-administered scale designed to assess the risk of pressure sore development in acute and long-term care settings.

Domains measured include:

- 1) General Health
- 2) Mental Status
- 3) Activity
- 4) Mobility
- 5) Continence
- 6) Nutrition
- 7) Predisposing disease

Availability

Worksheet: Currently unavailable.

Assessment Interpretability

Minimal Clinically Important Difference

Not established for SCI

Statistical Error

Not established for SCI

Typical Values

The SCIPUS-A (71%) was the most accurate in predicting pressure ulcer development, followed by the SCIPUS (65.9%), Braden (62.3%), Gosnell (62.2%), Abruzzese (60.1%) and Norton (60.8%) scales.

The Abruzzese scale had a sensitivity of 21.8% and a specificity of 84.6%.

Measurement Properties

Validity – **Low** to **Moderate**

Low to Moderate correlations between stage of 1st pressure ulcer and pressure ulcer scales:

SCIPUS-A ($r=0.488$)

SCIPUS ($r=0.343$)

Braden ($r=-0.353$)

Gosnell ($r=0.254$)

Abruzzese ($r=0.241$)

Norton ($r=-0.192$)

Low to Moderate correlations between the number of pressure ulcers and pressure ulcer scales:

SCIPUS-A ($r=0.519$)

SCIPUS ($r=0.339$)

Braden ($r=-0.431$)

Gosnell ($r=0.297$)

Abruzzese ($r=0.212$)

Norton ($r=-0.197$)

(Salzberg et al. 1999; $n=226$; 188 males, 38 females; mean (SD) age: 33.2 (15.2) years)

Number of studies reporting validity data: 1

Reliability – **Not established for SCI**

Responsiveness

Floor/Ceiling Effect:

Not established in SCI

Effect Size:

Not established in SCI

**Number of studies reporting
responsiveness data: 0**