**Assessment Overview**

**Assessment Area**

**ICF Domain:** Body Functions  
**Subcategory:** Sensory Functions

**Summary**

The Brief Pain Inventory (BPI) is a self-report assessment, modeled after the McGill Pain Questionnaire. It provides information on the intensity of pain (sensory dimension) and the degree to which pain interferes with function (reactive dimension). It also asks questions about pain relief, pain quality, and the patient’s perception of the cause of pain. The reactive dimension (i.e. the interference scale) of the inventory is often used alone. It is also the only part of the BPI that has been tested in the SCI population. **Therefore the information presented here refers to the BPI-Interference scale only.**

Three modified versions of the BPI – Interference scale have been developed for the SCI population (7-item, 10-item, and 12-item). Pain is rated on a scale of 0 (no interference) to 10 (interferes completely).

**You Will Need**

**Length:** 7, 10, or 12 items, 5-10 minutes  
**Scoring:** 0-10 rating scale for items  
Mean of item scores is used as the Pain Interference score

**Availability**

**Languages:** English, French, Chinese, Filipino, Hindi, Italian, Spanish, and Vietnamese

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**Assessment Interpretability**

**Minimal Clinically Important Difference**

Not established in SCI

**Statistical Error**

Not established in SCI

**Typical Values**

Mean Scores (from 0-10)  
7-item 3.63 (2.60)  
10-item 3.53 (2.62)  
12-item 3.31 (2.58)

(Raichle et al. 2006; n=127, 92 males; mixed injury types; community; mean (SD) time since injury = 16.6(10.6) years)
# Measurement Properties

## Validity

- **Moderate to High**
  - **High** correlation with Pain Intensity Numerical Ratings Scale:
    - 7-item = 0.62; 10-item = 0.63; 12-item = 0.61
  - **High** correlation with Short Form-36 (SF-36) Mental Health Scale:
    - 7-item = -0.62; 10-item = -0.60; 12-item = -0.61
  - **High** correlation between BPI-Interference (12-item) and MPI-SCI Life Interference subscale:
    - Correlation = 0.75
  - **Moderate** correlation between BPI-Interference (12-item) and MPI-SCI Pain Interference subscale:
    - Correlation = 0.50

  (Raichle et al. 2006; n=127, 92 males; mixed injury types; community; mean (SD) time since injury = 16.6(10.6) years)

- Number of studies reporting validity data: 2

## Reliability

- **High** Internal Consistency:
  - 7-item: $\alpha = 0.92$
  - 10-item: $\alpha = 0.95$
  - 12-item: $\alpha = 0.96$

  (Raichle et al. 2006; n=127, 92 males; mixed injury types; community; mean (SD) time since injury = 16.6(10.6) years)

- 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