

# Douleur Neuropathique 4 questions (DN4)

Category: Pain, Neurology | Items: 10 | Time: ~2-3 min

## Description / When to Use

Screen for neuropathic pain

## Instructions for Respondent

Please read each statement carefully and respond based on how you have felt over the specified time period. There are 10 items in this scale. Estimated completion time: 2-3 min.

## Scale Items

1. Pain has the following characteristic: burning?
2. Painful cold?
3. Electric shocks?
4. Associated with tingling?
5. Associated with pins and needles?
6. Associated with numbness?
7. Associated with itching?
8. On exam: hypoesthesia to touch in the painful area?
9. On exam: hypoesthesia to pin-prick in the painful area?
10. On exam: brushing the painful area increases or evokes pain?

## Response Options

Yes / No (scored as indicated per item)

## Scoring Guide

Weighted sum of all 10 items. Total range 0-10.

## Cutoff Interpretation

Score Range	Severity	Recommended Action
0–3	Nociceptive mechanism likely	DN4 < 4 — neuropathic mechanism unlikely.
4–10	Neuropathic mechanism likely	DN4 >= 4 — sensitivity 83%, specificity 90% for neuropathic pain.

## Psychometric Properties

See original validation study for reliability and validity data.

## License

Free to use — public domain or open access.

## Citation (APA Format)

Bouhassira D et al. Comparison of pain syndromes associated with nervous or somatic lesions and development of a new neuropathic pain diagnostic questionnaire (DN4). *Pain*. 2005;114(1-2):29-36.  
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*Disclaimer: Items 8–10 require clinical examination.*