

Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) (Glasgow Coma Scale)

Category: Neurology, Emergency, Critical care | Items: 3 | Time: ~1-2 min

Description / When to Use

Level of consciousness after head injury

Instructions for Respondent

Please read each statement carefully and respond based on how you have felt over the specified time period. There are 3 items in this scale. Estimated completion time: 1-2 min.

Scale Items

1. Eye opening

1 = None | 2 = To pain | 3 = To voice | 4 = Spontaneous

2. Verbal response

1 = None | 2 = Incomprehensible sounds | 3 = Inappropriate words | 4 = Confused | 5 = Oriented

3. Motor response

1 = None | 2 = Extension to pain (decerebrate) | 3 = Flexion to pain (decorticate) | 4 = Withdrawal from pain | 5 = Localizes pain | 6 = Obeys commands

Scoring Guide

Sum all 3 items. Total range 3-15.

Cutoff Interpretation

Score Range	Severity	Recommended Action
3–8	Severe	Severe brain injury — secure airway.
9–12	Moderate	Moderate injury.
13–15	Mild	Mild injury.

Psychometric Properties

See original validation study for reliability and validity data.

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Citation (APA Format)

Teasdale G, Jennett B. Lancet. 1974;2(7872):81-84.
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