

Leeds Assessment of Neuropathic Symptoms and Signs (LANSS)

Category: Pain, Neurology | Items: 7 | Time: ~2-3 min

Description / When to Use

Screen for neuropathic component of pain

Instructions for Respondent

Please read each statement carefully and respond based on how you have felt over the specified time period. There are 7 items in this scale. Estimated completion time: 2-3 min.

Scale Items

1. Pain feels strange — pricking, tingling, like pins and needles? (5 points)
2. Skin in the painful area looks mottled or like 'punched-out spots'? (5 points)
3. Skin in the painful area is abnormally sensitive to clothing or breeze? (3 points)
4. Pain comes on suddenly in bursts for no apparent reason — electric shocks, jumping? (2 points)
5. Pain feels as if the skin temperature has changed — hot or burning? (1 point)
6. On exam: stroking the painful area lightly produces an unpleasant sensation (allodynia)? (5 points)
7. On exam: altered pin-prick threshold (raised) compared with a normal area? (3 points)

Response Options

Yes / No (scored as indicated per item)

Scoring Guide

Weighted sum of all 7 items. Total range 0-24.

Cutoff Interpretation

Score Range	Severity	Recommended Action
0–11	Nociceptive pain mechanism likely	Score < 12 — neuropathic mechanism unlikely; treat as nociceptive
12–24	Neuropathic mechanism likely	Score >= 12 — neuropathic mechanism likely; consider gabapentinoids / TCAs / SNRIs.

Psychometric Properties

See original validation study for reliability and validity data.

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Citation (APA Format)

Bennett M. The LANSS Pain Scale: the Leeds assessment of neuropathic symptoms and signs. *Pain*. 2001;92(1-2):147-157.
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Disclaimer: Items 6–7 require clinical examination.