

Waterlow Pressure Ulcer Scale

Assessment Overview

Assessment Area

ICF Domain:

Body Function

Subcategory:

Functions of the Skin

You Will Need

5-10 minutes to complete 8 items

Equipment:

- None, but Manual is recommended

Summary

The Waterlow Pressure Ulcer Scale is a clinician-administered and rated scale used to assess the risk for pressure ulcer (PU) development. It provides better sensitivity and specificity than the Norton Scale.

Availability

Download here:

http://www.scireproject.com/sites/default/files/worksheet_waterlow_pressure_risk_assessment_scale.docx

Available in: English

Assessment Interpretability

Minimal Clinically Important Difference

Not established in SCI

Statistical Error

Not established in SCI

Typical Values

Mean scores:

All patients: 21.5

Patients with PU: 24.1

Patients with no PU: 18.4

(Ash 2002; N=144)

Measurement Properties

Validity – **Moderate**

Moderate correlation with Norton Scale:

Spearman's $\rho = -0.50 \sim -0.56$ ($P < 0.001$; Wellard, 2000; N=60, SCI individuals with 1+ PU diagnosis)

ROC Analysis:

Moderate Area under curve = 0.76 (Ash, 2002; N=144)

Number of studies reporting validity data: 2

Reliability – **Not established in SCI**

Number of studies reporting reliability data: 0

Responsiveness

Floor/Ceiling Effect:

36% of patients at "very high risk"

Very high risk defined as a score of 20+

(Wellard, 2000; N=60, SCI individuals with 1+ PU diagnosis; Waterlow 1985)

Effect Size:

Not established in SCI

Number of studies reporting responsiveness data: 1