

Modification of the Pain Scales of Von Korff et al to Evaluate a Patient with Back Pain

Overview:

Underwood et al used a modification of the pain scales developed by von Korff et al to evaluate patients with back pain. The authors are from St. Bartholomew's and the Royal London School of Medicine in London.

Questions:

- (1) In the past 4 weeks how much has your back pain interfered with your daily activities?
- (2) In the past 4 weeks how much has back pain changed your ability to take part in recreational social and family activities?
- (3) In the past 4 weeks how much has back pain changed your ability to work (including housework)?
- (4) How would you rate your back pain today?
- (5) In the past 4 weeks how bad was your worst back pain?
- (6) In the past 4 weeks on average how bad was your back pain?

Responses are from a 11 point Likert scale from 0 to 10.

	Anchor 0	Anchor 10
impact on ADL	none	unable to do any at all
impact on social activities	none	extreme
impact on work	none	extreme
back pain today	none	as bad as could be
worst pain in last month	none	as bad as could be
average pain in last month	none	as bad as could be

disability score = (SUM points for first 3 questions) / 3 * 10

pain score = (SUM points for last 3 questions) / 3 * 10

Interpretation: • minimum score: 0 and maximum score: 100

- The higher the score the more severe the disability or the back pain.

References:

Underwood MR Barnett AG Vickers MR. Evaluation of two time-specific back pain outcome measures. Spine. 1999; 24: 1104-1112 (Appendix page 1112).

von Korff M Ormel J et al. Grading the severity of chronic pain. Pain. 1992; 50: 133-149.