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The Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS)**

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| <b>Availability:</b>                    | The instrument is freely available here: <a href="#">Glasgow Coma Scale Link</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Classification:</b>                  | <b>Supplemental – Highly Recommended:</b> Stroke (based on study type, disease stage and disease type)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Short Description of Instrument:</b> | The Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) was developed to overcome the misunderstandings and confusion about comatose patients. The GCS is also used to assess neurological trauma as well as to document and predict neurological changes. It is considered the gold standard in this regard and is widely used.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Scoring:</b>                         | Three questions must be answered in regards to unconsciousness and coma with the first addressing eye opening, the second motor function and the third verbal response. Scores range from 3-15 total points with higher scores indicating patients in comatose.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>References:</b>                      | <p>Teasdale G, Jennett B. Assessment of coma and impaired consciousness. A practical scale. Lancet. Jul 1974;2(7872):81-4.</p> <p>Marmarou A, Lu J, Butcher I, et al. Prognostic value of the Glasgow Coma Scale and pupil reactivity in traumatic brain injury assessed pre-hospital and on enrollment: an IMPACT analysis. J Neurotrauma. Feb 2007;24(2):270-80.</p> <p>Stocchetti N, Pagan F, Calappi E, et al. Inaccurate early assessment of neurological severity in head injury. J Neurotrauma. Sep 2004;21(9):1131-40.</p> <p>Balestreri M, Czosnyka M, Chatfield DA, et al. Predictive value of Glasgow Coma Scale after brain trauma: change in trend over the past ten years. J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry. Jan 2004;75(1):161-2.</p> <p>Steinbach, GL. The Glasgow Coma Scale. J Emerg Medicine 2000 Jul;(1) 67-71</p> |