INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR NEUROLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION OF SPINAL CORD INJURY (ISNCSCI)

AMERICAN SPINAL INJURY ASSOCIATION

INTERNATIONAL SPINAL CORD SOCIETY

Patient Name _____ Date/Time of Exam _____

Examiner Name _____ Signature _____

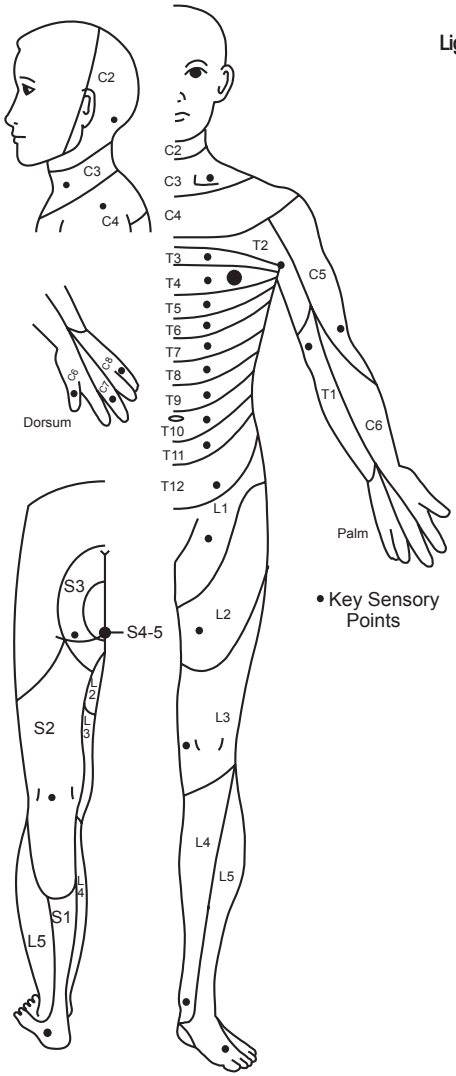
RIGHT

	MOTOR KEY MUSCLES	SENSORY KEY SENSORY POINTS Light Touch (LTR)	Pin Prick (PPR)
C2			
C3			
C4			
C5	*Elbow flexors*		
C6	*Wrist extensors*		
C7	*Elbow extensors*		
C8	*Finger flexors*		
T1	*Finger abductors (little finger)*		
T2			
T3			
T4			
T5			
T6			
T7			
T8			
T9			
T10			
T11			
T12			
L1			
L2	*Hip flexors*		
L3	*Knee extensors*		
L4	*Ankle dorsiflexors*		
L5	*Long toe extensors*		
S1	*Ankle plantar flexors*		
S2			
S3			
S4-5			
	RIGHT TOTALS (MAXIMUM)	(50)	(56) (56)

UER (Upper Extremity Right)

LER (Lower Extremity Right)

Comments *(Non-key Muscle? Reason for NT? Pain? Non-SCI condition?):*



(VAC) Voluntary Anal Contraction (Yes/No) ☐

LEFT

	MOTOR KEY MUSCLES	SENSORY KEY SENSORY POINTS Light Touch (LTL)	Pin Prick (PPL)
C2			
C3			
C4			
C5	*Elbow flexors*		
C6	*Wrist extensors*		
C7	*Elbow extensors*		
C8	*Finger flexors*		
T1	*Finger abductors (little finger)*		
T2			
T3			
T4			
T5			
T6			
T7			
T8			
T9			
T10			
T11			
T12			
L1			
L2	*Hip flexors*		
L3	*Knee extensors*		
L4	*Ankle dorsiflexors*		
L5	*Long toe extensors*		
S1	*Ankle plantar flexors*		
S2			
S3			
S4-5			
	LEFT TOTALS (MAXIMUM)	(56) (56)	(50)

UEL (Upper Extremity Left)

LEL (Lower Extremity Left)

(DAP) Deep Anal Pressure (Yes/No) ☐

MOTOR (SCORING ON REVERSE SIDE)

0 = Total paralysis
1 = Palpable or visible contraction
2 = Active movement, gravity eliminated
3 = Active movement, against gravity
4 = Active movement, against some resistance
5 = Active movement, against full resistance
NT = Not testable
0, 1*, 2*, 3*, 4*, NT* = Non-SCI condition present*

SENSORY (SCORING ON REVERSE SIDE)

0 = Absent *NT = Not testable*
1 = Altered *0*, 1*, NT* = Non-SCI*
2 = Normal *condition present*

MOTOR SUBSCORES

UER ☐ +UEL ☐ = *UEMS TOTAL* ☐ (MAX (25) (25) (50))

LER ☐ + LEL ☐ = *LEMS TOTAL* ☐ (MAX (25) (25) (50))

SENSORY SUBSCORES

LTR ☐ + LTL ☐ = *LT TOTAL* ☐ (MAX (56) (56) (112))

PPR ☐ + PPL ☐ = *PP TOTAL* ☐ (MAX (56) (56) (112))

NEUROLOGICAL LEVELS
Steps 1- 6 for classification as on reverse

	R	L
1. SENSORY	☐	☐
2. MOTOR	☐	☐

3. NEUROLOGICAL LEVEL OF INJURY (NLI) ☐

4. COMPLETE OR INCOMPLETE? ☐
Incomplete = Any sensory or motor function in S4-5

5. ASIA IMPAIRMENT SCALE (AIS) ☐

(In injuries with absent motor OR sensory function in S4-5 only)

6. ZONE OF PARTIAL PRESERVATION
Most caudal levels with any sensory / motor function

	R	L
SENSORY	☐	☐
MOTOR	☐	☐

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Muscle Function Grading

0 = Total paralysis

1 = Palpable or visible contraction

2 = Active movement, full range of motion (ROM) with gravity eliminated

3 = Active movement, full ROM against gravity

4 = Active movement, full ROM against gravity and moderate resistance in a muscle specific position

5 = (Normal) active movement, full ROM against gravity and full resistance in a functional muscle position expected from an otherwise unimpaired person

NT = Not testable (i.e. due to immobilization, severe pain such that the patient cannot be graded, amputation of limb, or contracture of > 50% of the normal ROM)

0*, 1*, 2*, 3*, 4*, NT* = Non-SCI condition present [a]

Sensory Grading

0 = Absent **1** = Altered, either decreased/impaired sensation or hypersensitivity

2 = Normal **NT** = Not testable

0*, 1*, NT* = Non-SCI condition present [a]

[a] Note: Abnormal motor and sensory scores should be tagged with a '*' to indicate an impairment due to a non-SCI condition. The non-SCI condition should be explained in the comments box together with information about how the score is rated for classification purposes (at least normal / not normal for classification).

When to Test Non-Key Muscles:

In a patient with an apparent AIS B classification, non-key muscles more than 3 segments below the ipsilateral motor level on each side should be tested to most accurately classify the injury (differentiate between AIS B and C/D).

Movement	Root level
Shoulder: Flexion, extension, adbuction, adduction, internal and external rotation **Elbow:** Supination	**C5**
Elbow: Pronation **Wrist:** Flexion	**C6**
Finger: Flexion at proximal joint, extension **Thumb:** Flexion, extension and abduction in plane of thumb	**C7**
Finger: Flexion at MCP joint **Thumb:** Opposition, adduction and abduction perpendicular to palm	**C8**
Finger: Abduction of the index finger	**T1**
Hip: Adduction	**L2**
Hip: External rotation	**L3**
Hip: Extension, abduction, internal rotation **Knee:** Flexion **Ankle:** Inversion and eversion **Toe:** MP and IP extension	**L4**
Hallux and Toe: DIP and PIP flexion and abduction	**L5**
Hallux: Adduction	**S1**

ASIA Impairment Scale (AIS)

A = Complete. No sensory or motor function is preserved in the sacral segments S4-5.

B = Sensory Incomplete. Sensory but not motor function is preserved below the neurological level and includes the sacral segments S4-5 (light touch or pin prick at S4-5 or deep anal pressure) AND no motor function is preserved more than three segments below the motor level on either side.

C = Motor Incomplete. Motor function is preserved at the most caudal sacral segments for voluntary anal contraction (VAC) OR the patient meets the criteria for sensory incomplete status (sensory function preserved at the most caudal sacral segments S4-5 by LT, PP or DAP), and has some sparing of motor function more than three levels below the ipsilateral motor level on either side of the body. (This includes key or non-key muscle functions to determine motor incomplete status.) For AIS C, less than half of key muscle functions below the single NLI have a muscle grade ≥ 3.

D = Motor Incomplete. Motor incomplete status as defined above, with at least half (half or more) of key muscle functions below the single NLI having a muscle grade ≥ 3.

E = Normal ISNCSCI. If sensation and motor function as tested with the ISNCSCI are graded as normal in all segments, and the patient had prior deficits typically documented in an earlier ISNCSCI exam, then the AIS grade is E. Someone without an SCI does not receive an AIS grade.

Using ND: To document the sensory, motor and NLI levels, the ASIA Impairment Scale grade, and/or the zone of partial preservation (ZPP) when they are unable to be determined based on the examination results.

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Steps in Classification

The following order is recommended for determining the classification of individuals with SCI.

1. Determine sensory levels for right and left sides.
The sensory level is the most caudal, intact dermatome for both pin prick and light touch sensation.

2. Determine motor levels for right and left sides.
Defined by the most caudal key muscle function that has a grade of at least 3 (on supine testing), providing the key muscle functions represented by segments above that level are judged to be intact (graded as a 5).
Note: in regions where there is no myotome to test, the motor level is presumed to be the same as the sensory level, if testable motor function above that level is also normal.

3. Determine the neurological level of injury (NLI).
This refers to the most caudal segment of the cord with intact sensation and antigravity (3 or more) muscle function strength, provided that there is normal (intact) sensory and motor function rostrally respectively.
The NLI is the most cephalad of the sensory and motor levels determined in steps 1 and 2.

4. Determine whether the injury is Complete or Incomplete.
(i.e. absence or presence of sacral sparing)
*If voluntary anal contraction = **No** AND all S4-5 sensory scores = **0***
*AND deep anal pressure = **No**, then injury is **Complete.***
*Otherwise, injury is **Incomplete**.*

5. Determine ASIA Impairment Scale (AIS) Grade.
Is injury Complete? If YES, AIS=A

NO ↓

Is injury Motor Complete? If YES, AIS=B

NO ↓ (No=voluntary anal contraction OR motor function more than three levels below the motor level on a given side, if the patient has sensory incomplete classification)

Are at least half (half or more) of the key muscles below the neurological level of injury graded 3 or better?

NO ↓ AIS=C **YES ↓ AIS=D**

If sensation and motor function is normal in all segments, AIS=E
Note: AIS E is used in follow-up testing when an individual with a documented SCI has recovered normal function. If at initial testing no deficits are found, the individual is neurologically intact and the ASIA Impairment Scale does not apply.

6. Determine the zone of partial preservation (ZPP).
The ZPP is used only in injuries with absent motor (no VAC) OR sensory function (no DAP, no LT and no PP sensation) in the lowest sacral segments S4-5, and refers to those dermatomes and myotomes caudal to the sensory and motor levels that remain partially preserved functions. With sacral sparing of sensory function, the sensory ZPP is not applicable and therefore "NA" is recorded in the block of the worksheet. Accordingly, if VAC is present, the motor ZPP is not applicable and is noted as "NA".

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