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BCAT® Test System Crosswalk to Pain Scales

This crosswalk can be used by clinicians of all disciplines to determine which pain scale can most reliably report patient pain levels. Administering select measures from the BCAT® Test System allows clinicians to use objective measures and scoring results to identify each patient's level of cognition. This information can support clinical decision making when determining each patient's ability to accurately report subjective levels of pain using a numeric rating scale.

For cognitively intact older adults and persons with mild cognitive impairments, the Numeric Pain Rating Scale may be used. These patients can most likely reliably report pain using a 1 – 10 numeric scale. However, when attempting to determine the presence and severity of pain in persons with more advanced cognitive impairments, using The Pain Assessment in Advanced Dementia Scale (PAINAD) scale may be a more appropriate option. This scale defines several pain behaviors and prompts the clinician to report and score observational findings to identify patient pain levels.

Cognitive Level	BCAT®-SF Score Range	BCAT® Test Score Range	Pain Scale Considerations
Normal	19 – 21	44 – 50	The Numeric Pain Rating Scale
MCI	16 – 18	34 – 43	The Numeric Pain Rating Scale
Mild Dementia*	11 – 15	25 – 33	The Numeric Pain Rating Scale
Moderate-Severe Dementia	0 – 10	0 – 24	The Pain Assessment in Advanced Dementia Scale (PAINAD)

Some patients with mild dementia may have difficulty using The Numeric Pain Rating Scale. If this occurs, use The Pain Assessment in Advanced Dementia Scale (PAINAD).

References

McCaffery, M., Beebe, A., et al. (1989). Pain: Clinical manual for nursing practice, Mosby St. Louis, MO.

Warden V, Hurley AC, Volicer L. Development and Psychometric Evaluation of the Pain Assessment in Advanced Dementia (PAINAD) scale. J Am Med Dir Assoc. 2003;4(1):9-15.