

THE NEUROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT



LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS: THE MOST SENSITIVE INDICATOR OF NEURO FUNCTION!

1. Alert, awake
2. Lethargic: Sleepy but arouses easily
3. Obtunded: Difficult to arouse but appropriate when aroused
4. Stuporous: VERY difficult to arouse and NOT appropriate
5. Comatose: Does not arouse

MENTAL STATUS: DETERMINED BY GCS (3-15)

Motor (**Most powerful predictor of patient outcome**)

- Obeys Commands (6)
- Localizes pain (5)
- Withdraws from pain (4)
- Decorticate posturing (3)
- Decerebrate posturing (2)
- No response (1)

Verbal

- Oriented x 4 (5)
- Confused (4)
- Using sentences but not making sense (3)
- Strange sounds that make zero sense (2)
- No response (1)

Eye opening

- Open (4)
- Open to voice (3)
- Open to pain (2)
- Don't open (1)

PUPILS: CN II, III, VI

- PERRLA (Pupils Equal Round Reactive to Light and Accommodation)
- Pupil size (1e: 2+ B/L)
- EOMS (6 cardinal fields of gaze -no nystagmus present)

GRIPS/ LEGS

- Assessing **equality** of extremity strength (1-5)