

COHMC Coma Scale for Brain-Injured Children

Overview: The COHMC (Children's Orthopedic Hospital and Medical Center Seattle Washington) coma scale can be used to assess children with a variety of central nervous system injuries. Since verbalization is not assessed it can be used with preverbal or previously intubated children.

Function	Findings	Score
cortical function subtotal	purposeful spontaneous movements	6
	purposeful voice-evoked movements	5
	painful stimulus localized	4
	nonpurposeful movements global withdrawal	3
	decorticate posturing	2
	decerebrate posturing	1
	flaccid	0
brainstem function subtotal	intact (pupillary light reflex corneal reflex and oculovestibular or oculocephalic reflexes present and normal)	3
	depressed (pupillary light reflex corneal reflex and oculovestibular or oculocephalic reflexes delayed or diminished or some reflexes present while others absent)	2
	absent but breathing spontaneously	1
	absent and apneic (with normal PaCO ₂)	0

COHMC coma scale = (cortical function subtotal) + (brainstem function subtotal)

Interpretation:

- minimum score: 0 (poor)
- maximum score: 9 (good)
- mortality very high for children with scores < 3
- no children admitted with flaccidity survived

References:

Murray JP Tyler DC et al. Coma scale for use in brain-injured children. Crit Care Med. 1984; 12: 1018-1020.