

## The FLACC Behavioral Scale for Postoperative Pain in Young Children

Overview: The FLACC (Face Legs Activity Cry Consolability) Behavioral Scale can be used in young children who may not be able to accurately verbalize postoperative pain and discomfort.

Patient selection:

- Children from 2 months to 7 years of age who had undergone a variety of elective surgical procedures.
- Children with developmental delay were not included.

Parameters:

(1) face

(2) legs

(3) activity

(4) cry

(5) consolability

Parameter	Finding	Points
Face	no particular expression or smile	0
	occasional grimace or frown withdrawn disinterested	1
	frequent to constant quivering chin clenched jaw	2
Legs	normal position or relaxed	0
	uneasy restless tense	1
	kicking or legs drawn up	2
Activity	lying quietly normal position moves easily	0
	squirming shifting back and forth tense	1
	arched rigid or jerking	2
Cry	no cry (awake or asleep)	0
	moans or whimpers occasional complaints	1
	crying steadily screams or sobs frequent complaints	2
consolability	content relaxed	0
	reassured by occasional touching hugging or being talked to; distractable	1
	difficult to console or comfort	2

FLACC score = SUM(points for all 5 parameters)

Interpretation:

- minimum score: 0
- maximum score: 10
- The higher the score the more the behavior reflecting discomfort and pain.
- Preliminary data showed the scale to be valid and reliable.

References:

Merkel SI Voeoel-Lewus T et al. The FLACC: A behavioral scale for scoring postoperative pain in young children. *Pediatric Nursing*. 1997; 23 (3): 293-297.