

Glasgow Outcome Scale

Overview: Severe head injury is associated with considerable morbidity and mortality. The Glasgow Outcome Scale is one of several ways of measuring the outcome after head injury. Extended (8 categories) and contracted (2 or 3) variations exist.

Original Scale	Abbreviation	Description
death	D	dead
persistent vegetative state	PVS	wakefulness without awareness; absence of speech or evidence of mental function in a patient who appears awake with spontaneous eye opening
severe disability	SD	conscious but dependent; patient requires assistance to perform daily activities and cannot live independently
moderate disability	MD	independent but disabled; patient unable to return to work but otherwise able to independently perform the activities of daily living
good recovery	GR	reintegrated but may have nondisabling sequelae; able to return to work but not necessarily at the same level; may have minor neurological or psychological impairments

Based on the pattern of clinical signs at 24 hours after injury it is possible to give a likelihood for the major outcome groups. Patients may be divided into 5 groups as follows:

Clinical Signs at 24 Hours	Grp 1	Grp 2	Grp 3	Grp 4	Grp 5
Any 2 of the following reacting (pupils cornea oculovestibular)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Motor status better than flaccid		N	Y	Y	Y
Motor withdrawal			N	Y	Y
Verbal moans				N	Y

The outcome in each group is as follows:

Prediction of Outcome of Coma at 24 Hours	D or PVS	SD	MD or GR
Group 1	97%	2%	1%
Group 2	80%	8%	12%
Group 3	69%	14%	17%
Group 4	58%	19%	23%
Group 5	46%	13%	41%

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