

APPENDIX A: MODIFIED GLASGOW COMA SCALE (GCS) FOR INFANTS AND CHILDREN

	Child-Adult (Verbal)* (usually >2yrs)	Infant (Pre-Verbal)** (usually <2yrs)	Score
Eye opening	Spontaneous	Spontaneous	4
	To verbal stimuli	To sound	3
	To pain only	To pain only	2
	No response	No response	1
Verbal Response	Orientated, appropriate	Age-appropriate vocalization, smile, or orientation to sound, interacts (coos and babbles), follows objects	5
	Confused, disoriented	Cries, irritable	4
	Inappropriate words	Cries to pain	3
	Incomprehensible words Or non specific sounds	Moans to pain	2
	No response	No response	1
Motor Response	Obeys commands	Moves spontaneously & purposefully	6
	Localizes painful stimulus	Withdraws to touch	5
	Withdraws in response to pain	Withdraws in response to pain	4
	Abnormal flexion in response to pain	Abnormal flexion posture to pain (decorticate posture)	3
	Abnormal extension in response to pain	Abnormal extension posture in response to pain (decerebrate posture)	2
	No response	No response	1

The GCS is scored between 3 and 15, 3 being the worst, and 15 the best. It is composed of three parameters: best eye response (E), best verbal response (V), and best motor response (M). The components of the GCS are recorded individually; for example, E2V3M4 results in a GCS of 9.

REFERENCES

- * Data from: Teasdale, G. and Jennett, B. (1974). Assessment of coma and impaired consciousness. A practical scale. *Lancet*. 2:81.
- ** Data from: Holmes, J.F., Palchak, M.J., MacFarlane, T. and Kuppermann, N. (2005). Performance of the pediatric Glasgow coma scale in children with blunt head trauma. *Academy of Emergency Medicine*. 12:814.