

ABBREVIATED WESTMEAD PTA SCALE (A-WPTAS) GCS & PTA testing of patients with MTBI following mild head injury

Abbreviated Westmead PTA Scale (A-WPTAS)
incorporating Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS)

Emergency Department Cork University Hospital



Date:		T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
Time						
Motor	Obeys commands	6	6	6	6	6
	Localises	5	5	5	5	5
	Withdraws	4	4	4	4	4
	Abnormal Flexion	3	3	3	3	3
	Extension	2	2	2	2	2
	None	1	1	1	1	1
	Eye Opening	4	4	4	4	4
	To speech	3	3	3	3	3
	To pain	2	2	2	2	2
	None	1	1	1	1	1
Verbal	Oriented ** (tick if correct)	5	5	5	5	5
	Name					
	Place					
	Why are you here					
	Month					
	Year					
	Confused	4	4	4	4	4
	Inappropriate words	3	3	3	3	3
	Incomprehensible sounds	2	2	2	2	2
	None	1	1	1	1	1
GCS	Score out of 15	/15	/15	/15	/15	/15
	Picture 1	Show pictures (see over)				
	Picture 2					
	Picture 3					
A-WPTAS	Score out of 18	/18	/18	/18	/18	/18

Use of A-WPTAS and GCS for patients with MTBI

The A-WPTAS combined with a standardised GCS assessment is an objective measure of post traumatic amnesia (PTA). Only for patients with current GCS of 13-15 (<24hrs post injury) with impact to the head resulting in confusion, disorientation, anterograde or retrograde amnesia, or brief LOC. Administer both tests at hourly intervals to gauge patient's capacity for full orientation and ability to retain new information. Also, note the following: poor motivation, depression, pre-morbid intellectual handicap or possible medication, drug or alcohol effects. *NB: This is a screening device, so exercise clinical judgement. In cases where doubt exists, more thorough assessment may be necessary.*

Admission and Discharge Criteria:

A patient is considered to be out of PTA when they score 18/18.
Both the GCS and A-WPTAS should be used in conjunction with clinical judgement.
Patients scoring 18/18 can be considered for discharge.
For patients who do not obtain 18/18 re-assess after a further hour.
Patients with persistent score <18/18 at 4 hours post time of injury should be considered for admission.
Clinical judgement and consideration of pre-existing conditions should be used where the memory component of A-WPTAS is abnormal but the GCS is normal (15/15).
Referral to GP on discharge if abnormal PTA was present, provide patient advice sheet.

Target set of picture cards



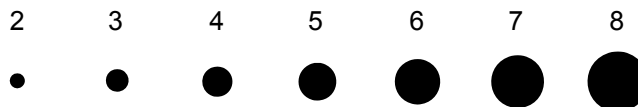
** must have all 5 orientation questions correct to score 5 on verbal score for GCS, otherwise the score is 4 (or less).

PUPIL ASSESSMENT	T1		T2		T3		T4		T5		+	=	REACTS BRISKLY
	R	L	R	L	R	L	R	L	R	L			
Size											SL	=	SLUGGISH
Reaction											C	=	CLOSED
											-	=	NIL

Comments

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Pupil Size (mm)



GLASGOW COMA SCALE (GCS) AND ABBREVIATED WESTMEAD PTA SCALE (A-WPTAS)

Administration and Scoring

1. Orientation Questions

Question 1: WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

The patient must provide their full name.

Question 2: WHAT IS THE NAME OF THIS PLACE?

The patient has to be able to give the name of the hospital. For example: Westmead Hospital. (NB: The patient does not get any points for just saying 'hospital'.) If the patient can not name the hospital, give them a choice of 3 options. To do this, pick 2 other similar sized hospitals in your local area or neighbouring region. In Westmead Hospital's case the 3 choices are 'Nepean Hospital, Westmead Hospital or Liverpool Hospital'.

Question 3: WHY ARE YOU HERE?

The patient must know why they were brought into hospital. e.g. they were injured in a car accident, fell, assaulted or injured playing sport. If the patient does not know, give them three options, including the correct reason.

Question 4: WHAT MONTH ARE WE IN?

For emphasis the examiner can ask what month are we in now? The patient must name the month. For example, if the patient answers 'the 6th month', the examiner must ask the further question 'What is the 6th month called?'

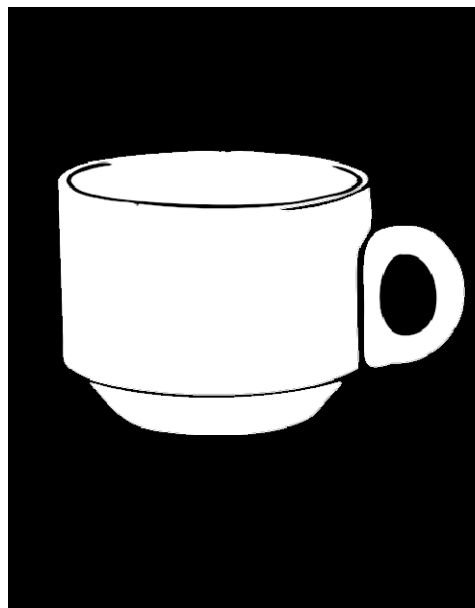
Question 5: WHAT YEAR ARE WE IN?

It is considered correct for patients to answer in the short form '08', instead of '2008'. Also, an acceptable alternative prompt (for the rest of the 2000's) is 'The year is 2000 and what?'

2. Picture recognition

Straight after administering the GCS (standardised questions), administer the A-WPTAS by presenting the 3 Westmead PTA cards. ▶Picture Cards the first time - T1 : Show patients the target set of picture cards for about 5 seconds and ensure that they can repeat the names of each card. Tell the patient to remember the pictures for the next testing in about one hour. ▶Picture Cards at each subsequent time T2-T5: Ask patient, "What were the three pictures that I showed you earlier?" ▶ Scoring:

- For patients who free recall all 3 pictures correctly, assign a score of 1 per picture and add up the patient's GCS (out of 15) and A-WPTAS memory component to give the A-WPTAS score (total = 18). Present the 3 target pictures again and re-test in 1 hour.
- For patients who can not free recall, or only partially free recall, the 3 correct pictures, present the 9-object recognition chart. If patient can recognise any correctly, score 1 per correct item and record their GCS and A-WPTAS score (total = 18). Present the target set of pictures again and re-test in 1 hour.
- For patients who neither remember any pictures by free call nor recognition, show the patient the target set of 3 picture cards again for re-test in 1 hour.



Shores & Lammell (2007) - further copies of this score sheet can be downloaded from <http://www.psy.mq.edu.au/GCS>

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