

This is a **Sample** version of the
**ABBREVIATED WESTMEAD
PTA SCALE (A-WPTAS)**

The **full version** of the ABBREVIATED WESTMEAD PTA SCALE (A-WPTAS) comes without 'sample' watermark.

The full complete version includes –

- Overview
- Administration/Scoring Guide
- Complete questionnaire/Test Kit

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ABBREVIATED WESTMEAD PTA SCALE (A-WPTAS)

GCS & PTA testing of patients with mild traumatic brain injury (MTBI) following mild head injury.

What does it assess?

Designed to measure the period of post-traumatic amnesia.

Who is it suitable for?

Designed for patients with a closed head injury. May be useful for people with a history of psychiatric illness, developmental or intellectual disability, substance abuse, previous head trauma or nervous system disease – but its usefulness for these groups remains undetermined.

Can be used with people with complex communication needs.

Who is it not suitable for?

People with penetrating or missile head trauma, as well as the brain damage caused by hypoxia or stroke.

How is it administered?

Speech pathologist or other hospital staff can administer it. Consists of 7 orientation questions and 5 memory items. Takes approximately 3 minutes for most people. May take up to 15 min for non-verbal patients. Has requirements listed for testing non-verbal patients - the examiner requires some skill and patience.

How is it scored/ interpreted?

A person is said to be out of PTA if a perfect score obtained for all questions, 3 days in a row. Once the duration of PTA is determined, the severity of Injury can be classified.

References

Shores EA., Marosszeky JE., Sandanam J., Batchelor J. Preliminary validation of a clinical scale for measuring the duration of post-traumatic amnesia. Medical Journal of Australia. 144(11):569-72, 1986 May 26. Marosszeky, N.E.V., Ryan, L., Shores, E.A., Batchelor, J. & Marosszeky, J.E. (1997). The PTA Protocol: Guidelines for using the Westmead Post-Traumatic Amnesia (PTA) Scale. Sydney: Wild & Wooley. Ponsford J., Willmott C., Rothwell A., Kelly AM., Nelms R., Ng KT. Use of the Westmead PTA Scale to Monitor Recovery of Memory after Mild Head Injury. Brain Injury. 18(6): 603-614, June 2004

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Administration and Scoring guide:

The A-WPTAS was developed as a method of measuring the duration of post-traumatic amnesia (PTA) because this is a useful way of identifying the extent of brain damage. The abbreviated scale is based on the original Westmead PTA scale; however patients are tested in hourly intervals instead of daily intervals.

The scale is essentially an extended version of the Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) and was developed so that a wide variety of health professionals can more accurately assess the duration of PTA in patients suspected of having suffered a mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI).

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).
- 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).

Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) Scoring guide: -

Write in date test is taken and the time
Test 1 (T1) is administered.

Instruct patient to do some motor skills
Such as touch nose, clap hands, pat head.
Choose one description from list.

Observe patients eyes. Chose one
Description from list.

*Follow Orientation instructions
below. Tick box if correct or 0 for
not correct. Then circle description.

***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?'

Date:		T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
24 th July 2013						
Time		7.20am				
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	Spontaneously	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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Why are you here	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Month	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Confused	4	4	4	4	4
Inappropriate words	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	10 /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

Add up GCS score from above
Write it down out of 15.

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?"

See next page for A-WPTAS Scoring guide.

This is the end of sample version.