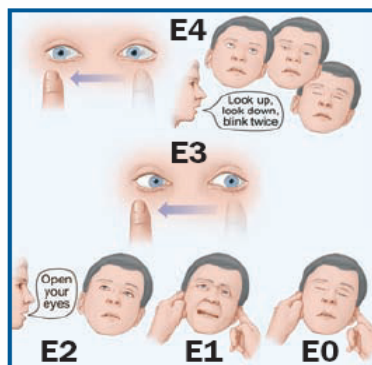


FOUR Score

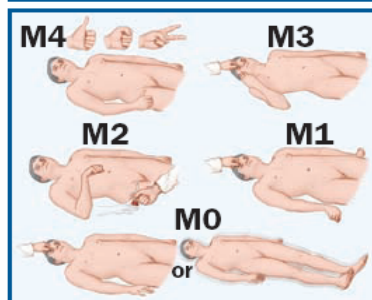
Eye Response

- 4 Eyelids open or opened, tracking or blinking to command
- 3 Eyelids open but not tracking
- 2 Eyelids closed but opens to loud voice
- 1 Eyelids closed but opens to pain
- 0 Eyelids remain closed with pain



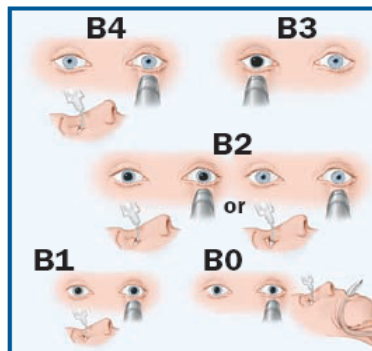
Motor Response

- 4 Thumbs up, fist, or peace sign to command
- 3 Localizing to pain
- 2 Flexion response to pain
- 1 Extensor posturing
- 0 No response to pain or generalized myoclonus status epilepticus



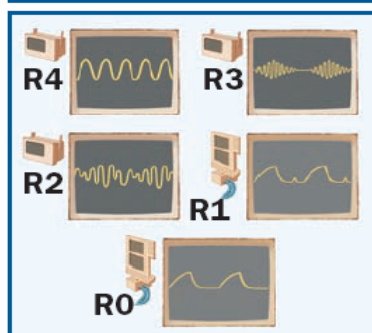
Brainstem Reflexes

- 4 Pupil and corneal reflexes present
- 3 One pupil wide and fixed
- 2 Pupil or corneal reflexes absent
- 1 Pupil and corneal reflexes absent
- 0 Absent pupil, corneal, and cough reflex



Respiration

- 4 Not intubated, regular breathing pattern
- 3 Not intubated, Cheyne-Stokes breathing pattern
- 2 Not intubated, irregular breathing pattern
- 1 Breathes above ventilator rate
- 0 Breathes at ventilator rate or apnea



Wijlicks EFM, Bamlet WR, Marambaioni EV, Manno EM, McClelland RL. Validation of a new Coma Scale: the FOUR score. *Annals of Neurology*. 2005; 58:585-593

Instructions for the Assessment of the Individual Categories of the FOUR Score

Eye Response (E)

Grade the best possible response after at least 3 trials in an attempt to elicit the best level of alertness. A score of **E4** indicates at least 3 voluntary excursions. If eyes are closed, the examiner should open them and examine tracking of a finger or object. Tracking with the opening of 1 eyelid will suffice in cases of eyelid edema or facial trauma. If tracking is absent horizontally, examine vertical tracking. Alternatively, 2 blinks on command should be documented. This will recognize a locked-in syndrome (patient is fully aware). A score of **E3** indicates the absence of voluntary tracking with open eyes. A score of **E2** indicates eyelids opening to loud voice. A score of **E1** indicates eyelids open to pain stimulus. A score of **E0** indicates no eyelids opening to pain.

Motor response (M)

Grade the best possible response of the arms. A score of **M4** indicates that the patient demonstrated at least 1 of 3 hand positions (thumbs-up, fist, or peace sign) with either hand. A score of **M3** indicates that the patient touched the examiner's hand after a painful stimulus compressing the temporomandibular joint or supraorbital nerve (localization). A score of **M2** indicates any flexion movement of the upper limbs. A score of **M1** indicates extensor posturing. A score of **M0** indicates no motor response or myoclonus status epilepticus.

Brainstem reflexes (B)

Grade the best possible response. Examine pupillary and corneal reflexes. Preferably, corneal reflexes are tested by instilling 2-3 drops of sterile saline on the cornea from a distance of 4-6 inches (this minimizes corneal trauma from repeated examinations). Cotton swabs can also be used. The cough reflex to tracheal suctioning is tested only when both of these reflexes are absent. A score of **B4** indicates pupil and cornea reflexes are present. A score of **B3** indicates one pupil wide and fixed. A score of **B2** indicates either pupil or cornea reflexes are absent, **B1** indicates both pupil and cornea reflexes are absent and a score of **B0** indicates pupil, cornea and cough reflex (using tracheal suctioning) are absent.

Respiration (R)

Determine spontaneous breathing pattern in a nonintubated patient, and grade simply as regular **R4**, irregular **R2**, or Cheyne-Stokes **R3** breathing. In mechanically ventilated patients, assess the pressure waveform of spontaneous respiratory pattern or the patient triggering of the ventilator **R1**. The ventilator monitor displaying respiratory patterns is used to identify the patient generated breaths on the ventilator. No adjustments are made to the ventilator while the patient is graded, but grading is done preferably with PaCO₂ within normal limits. A standard apnea (oxygen-diffusion) test may be needed when patient breathes at ventilator rate **R0**.



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