McGill Pain Questionnaire

Sources: Melzack R. The McGill Pain Questionnaire: major properties and scoring methods. Pain 1975;1:277–99.

The McGill Pain Questionnaire (1) consists primarily of 3 major classes of word descriptors--sensory, affective and evaluative--that are used by patients to specify subjective pain experience. It also contains an intensity scale and other items to determine the properties of pain experience. The questionnaire was designed to provide quantitative measures of clinical pain that can be treated statistically. The 3 major measures are: ① the pain rating index, based on two types of numerical values that can be assigned to each word descriptor, ② the number of words chosen; and ③ the present pain intensity based on a 1-5 intensity scale. Correlation coefficients among these measures, based on data obtained with 297 patients suffering several kinds of pain, are presented. In addition, an experimental study which utilized the questionnaire is analyzed in order to describe the nature of the information that is obtained. The data, taken together, indicate that the McGill Pain Questionnaire provides quantitative information that can be treated statistically, and is sufficiently sensitive to detect differences among different methods to relieve pain.

Scoring instructions

The MPQ is scored by hand by first counting the number of words used to obtain a total word score (number of words chosen). Then the rank values of the words chosen are summed to give a total PRI score and scores on each of the 4 subscales. The PPI is scored by noting the number-word combination chosen by the respondent.

Interpretation of scores

The PRI is interpreted both in terms of quantity of pain as evidenced by the number of words used and the rank values of the words, as well as the quality of pain as evidenced by the particular words that are selected. A meta-analysis (2) concluded that normative scores across painful conditions range from 24 to 50% of the maximum scores.

References

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4. Papageorgiou AC, Badley EM. The quality of pain in arthritis: the words patients use to describe overall pain and pain in individual joints at rest and on movement. J Rheumatol 1989;16:106–12.
5. Seymour RA, Charlton JE, Phillips ME. An evaluation of dental pain using visual analog scales and the McGill Pain Questionniare. J Oral Maxillofac Surg 1983;41:643–8.
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THE MCGILL PAIN QUESTIONNAIRE (MPQ) – ABBREVIATED

Name _____ Number _____ Date _____

PRI: S _____ A _____ E _____ M(S) _____ M(AE) _____ M(T) _____ PRI(T) _____
(1-10) (11-15) (16) (17-19) (20) (17-20) (1-20)

1. Flickering ☐
   Quivering ☐
   Pulsing ☐
   Throbbing ☐
   Beating ☐
   Pounding ☐

2. Jumping ☐
   Flashing ☐
   Shooting ☐

3. Pricking ☐
   Boring ☐
   Drilling ☐
   Stabbing ☐
   Lancinating ☐

4. Sharp ☐
   Cutting ☐
   Lacerating ☐

5. Pinching ☐
   Pressing ☐
   Gnawing ☐
   Cramping ☐
   Crushing ☐

6. Tugging ☐
   Pulling ☐
   Wrenching ☐

7. Hot ☐
   Burning ☐
   Scalding ☐
   Searing ☐

8. Tingling ☐
   Itchy ☐
   Smarting ☐
   Stinging ☐

9. Dull ☐
   Sore ☐
   Hurting ☐
   Aching ☐
   Heavy ☐

10. Tender ☐
    Taut ☐
    Rasping ☐
    Splitting ☐

11. Tiring ☐
    Exhausting ☐

12. Sickening ☐
    Suffocating ☐

13. Fearful ☐
    Frightful ☐
    Terrifying ☐

14. Punishing ☐
    Grueling ☐
    Cruel ☐
    Vicious ☐
    Killing ☐

15. Wretched ☐
    Blinding ☐

16. Annoying ☐
    Troublesome ☐
    Miserable ☐
    Intense ☐
    Unbearable ☐

17. Spreading ☐
    Radiating ☐
    Penetrating ☐
    Piercing ☐

18. Tight ☐
    Numb ☐
    Drawing ☐
    Squeezing ☐
    Tearing ☐

19. Cool ☐
    Cold ☐
    Freezing ☐

20. Nagging ☐
    Nauseating ☐
    Agonizing ☐
    Dreadful ☐
    Torturing ☐

PPI
0 No Pain ☐
1 Mild ☐
2 Discomforting ☐
3 Distressing ☐
4 Horrible ☐
5 Excruciating ☐

Accompanying Symptoms:
Nausea ☐
Headache ☐
Dizziness ☐
Drowsiness ☐
Constipation ☐
Diarrhea ☐

Comments

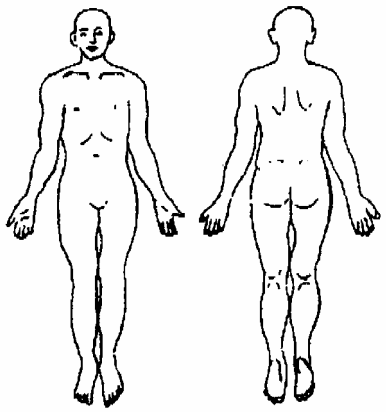
Sleep:
Good ☐
Fitful ☐
Can't Sleep ☐

Comments

Food Intake:
Good ☐
Some ☐
Little ☐

Comments

Activity:
Good ☐
Some ☐
Little ☐
None ☐



Comments

PPI _____

Comments

Good ☐
Some ☐
Little ☐

Reference: Melzack, Ronald. Psychological Aspects of Pain, Pain, 1980;8;145 © Elsenier Science Inc.

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