PEDIATRIC COMPLEX CARE PLATFORM | منصة رعاية الأطفال ذوي الحالات الطبية المعقدة

VALIDATED ASSESSMENT SCALE · PRESSURE INJURY RISK

Braden QD Scale

Assessment of immobility-related and medical device–related pressure injury risk in infants and children

7 items | Score ≥13 = at risk | Preterm to <18 years

INSTRUMENT
Braden QD Scale

COMPLETED BY
Clinician / pediatric nurse

ORIGINAL AUTHORS
© Curley MAQ; adapted with permission from B. Braden and N. Bergstrom, Braden Scale for Predicting Pressure Sore Risk (1987)

Reproduced for clinical use with full attribution and reformatted by the Pediatric Complex Care Platform. Scale wording is unchanged from the original; all rights remain with the original authors.

1 Introduction

The Braden QD Scale is a validated pediatric tool that assesses the risk of pressure injury from both **immobility** and **medical devices** (the "D" in QD) in infants and children younger than 18 years. It is a revised, simplified version of the Braden Q Scale and allows both types of risk to be assessed with a single instrument.

2 How to Use

1. Score each of the five patient items — **mobility, sensory perception, friction & shear, nutrition, and tissue perfusion & oxygenation** — from **0 to 2**, choosing the description that best fits the child.
2. Score **1 point for each medical device** currently attached to or traversing the skin or mucous membrane (maximum 8 points).
3. Score **repositionability / skin protection** of the devices from 0 to 2.
4. Add all item scores to obtain the **total score**.

Interpretation

A total score of **≥13** indicates that the child is **at risk** of pressure injury and should prompt preventive measures.

Reassessment

Reassess regularly and whenever the child's clinical condition or medical devices change, in line with local policy.

3 References

1. Curley MAQ, Hasbani NR, Quigley SM, et al. Predicting pressure injury risk in pediatric patients: the Braden QD Scale. *J Pediatr*. 2018;192:189–195.e2.
2. Curley MAQ, Razmus IS, Roberts KE, Wypij D. Predicting pressure ulcer risk in pediatric patients: the Braden Q Scale. *Nurs Res*. 2003;52(1):22–33.

Patient: _____ Date / time: _____ Assessed by: _____

Braden QD Scale				Score
Intensity and Duration of Pressure				
Mobility The ability to independently change & control body position	**0. No Limitation** Makes major and frequent changes in body or extremity position independently.	**1. Limited** Makes slight and infrequent changes in body or extremity position **OR** unable to reposition self independently (includes infants too young to roll over).	**2. Completely Immobile** Does not make even slight changes in body or extremity position independently.	
Sensory Perception The ability to respond meaningfully, in a **developmentally** appropriate way, to pressure-related discomfort	**0. No Impairment** Responsive **and** has no sensory deficits which limit ability to feel or communicate discomfort.	**1. Limited** Cannot always communicate pressure-related discomfort **OR** has some sensory deficits that limit ability to feel pressure-related discomfort.	**2. Completely Limited** Unresponsive due to diminished level of consciousness or sedation **OR** sensory deficits limit ability to feel pressure-related discomfort over most of body surface.	
Tolerance of the Skin and Supporting Structure				
Friction & Shear ***Friction:*** occurs when skin moves against support surfaces ***Shear:*** occurs when skin & adjacent bony surface slide across one another	**0. No Problem** Has sufficient strength to completely lift self up during a move. Maintains good body position in bed/chair at all times. Able to completely lift patient during a position change.	**1. Potential Problem** Requires **some** assistance in moving. Occasionally slides down in bed/chair, requiring repositioning. During repositioning, skin often slides against surface.	**2. Problem** Requires **full** assistance in moving. Frequently slides down and requires repositioning. Complete lifting without skin sliding against surface is impossible **OR** spasticity, contractures, itching or agitation leads to almost constant friction.	
Nutrition *Usual* diet for age – assess pattern over the most recent 3 consecutive days	**0. Adequate** Diet for age providing **adequate** calories **&** protein to support metabolism and growth.	**1. Limited** Diet for age providing **inadequate** calories **OR** **inadequate** protein to support metabolism and growth **OR** receiving supplemental nutrition any part of the day.	**2. Poor** Diet for age providing **inadequate** calories **and** protein to support metabolism and growth.	
Tissue Perfusion & Oxygenation	**0. Adequate** Normotensive for age, **&** oxygen saturation ≥95%, **&** normal hemoglobin, **&** capillary refill ≤2 seconds.	**1. Potential Problem** Normotensive for age **with** oxygen saturation <95%, **OR** hemoglobin <10 g/dl, **OR** capillary refill >2 seconds.	**2. Compromised** Hypotensive for age **OR** hemodynamically unstable with position changes.	
Medical Devices				
Number of Medical Devices	**Score 1 point for each medical device* up to 8 (Score 8 points maximum)** **Any diagnostic or therapeutic device that is currently attached to or traverses the patient's skin or mucous membrane.*			
Repositionability / Skin Protection	**0. No Medical Devices**	**1. Potential Problem** All medical devices can be repositioned **OR** the skin under each device is protected.	**2. Problem** Any one or more medical device(s) can**not** be repositioned **OR** the skin under each device is not protected.	
			Total (≥13 considered at risk)	

© Curley MAQ; Adapted with permission from B. Braden and N. Bergstrom, Braden Scale for Predicting Pressure Sore Risk, (1987)