**Reviewer ID:** Emily Procter, Matthew Querée  

**Type of Outcome Measure:** The Braden Scale  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author ID Year</th>
<th>Study Design</th>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Population (sample size, age) and Group</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Ash 2002      | Retrospective medical history audit (used 3 point severity scale ulcers) may have included wounds not related to direct pressure (in gluteal fold r/t fungus for example) | SCI unit | N=144  
Mean age = 40 (range 10-89)  
All patients with a completed first admission to the SCI unit from 1998 to 2000  
Mean (95%CI) time since SCI at admission to spinal unit: 14(1-17) days |
| Salzberg et al. 1999 | Retrospective medical record review | 5 trauma centers in the New York City area:  
Bronx Municipal Hospital Center (n=62)  
Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Centre (n=23)  
St. Vincent’s Hospital and Medical Center (n=31)  
Our Lady of Mercy Medical Center (n=3)  
Westchester Medical Center (n=107) | N=226 (188M, 38F)  
Mean age 33.2±15.2yrs (range 1-83yrs)  
Acute, traumatic SCI patients admitted between June 1986 and October 1994 to one of five trauma centres in the New York area. Levels C4-S1. |
| Wellard 2000 | Retrospective medical history audit | SCI unit | N=60  
Mean age 43±18yrs (range 17-82yrs)  
Of the 60 cases examined, the pressure ulcer admission rate to the hospital was:  
46.7% had 1 admission  
18.3% had 2 admissions  
16.7% had 3-4 admissions  
18.3% had >5 admissions  
Average (SD) length of stay in the hospital: 91 (98) days |

1. **RELIABILITY** – no data available  

2. **VALIDITY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author ID</th>
<th>Validity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salzberg et al. 1999</td>
<td>Braden Scale: It was found that sensory perception, mobility and nutritional variables were not significantly related to pressure ulcer development. Moisture was the most important predictive variable. Factors that needed accounting for were extent of paralysis and levels of serum creatine and albumin.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Spearman's correlation coefficient.

There were significant (P≤.001) correlations between the stage of the first pressure ulcer and all of the scales: Spinal Cord Injury Pressure Ulcer Scale-Acute (SCIPUS-A) (r=0.488), SCIPUS (r=0.343), Braden (r=-0.353), Gosnell (r=0.254), Abruzzese (r=0.241) and Norton (r=-0.192; P=.004).

There were significant correlations between the number of ulcers developed and all of the scales: SCIPUS-A (r=0.519), SCIPUS (r=0.339), Braden (r=-0.431), Gosnell (r=0.297), Abruzzese (r=0.212) and Norton (r=-0.197; P=.003).

Authors did not mention if the Norton scale was predicted to have a negative correlation with the stage of the first pressure scale and with the number of ulcers developed.

**This study focused on pressure ulcers that developed within the first 30 days post-admission. Pressure ulcers developing after this timeframe were not included.

The Braden scale was more accurate in predicting pressure ulcer development (62.3%) than the Gosnell (62.2%), Abruzzese (60.1%) or Norton (60.8%) scale, but less accurate than the SCIPUS-A (71%) or SCIPUS (65.9%) scores. Using the standard cut-off point of ≤18, the sensitivity was 100%, but the specificity was only 4.4%. The best balance was found with a cut-off point of ≤10, which gave a sensitivity of 74.7% and a specificity of 56.6%.

Wellard 2000

*Descriptions in the patients’ histories were used to retrospectively apply scores according to Stirling’s pressure ulcer severity scale, and the Norton, Braden and Waterlow tools. Four histories had insufficient data, leaving N=56.*

Spearman correlation coefficients.

When the scales were treated as continuous variables:
There were significant correlations between the Stirling scores and both the Norton scores (r=-0.28; P=.039) and the Waterlow scores (r=0.38; P=.004), but not the Braden scores (r=0.03; P=.813).

When the scales were treated as categorical variables (e.g. at risk, high risk, very high risk):
Only the Waterlow scores were significantly correlated to the Stirling scores (r=0.32; P=.017). (Norton, r=0.14, P=.311; Braden, r=-0.08, P=.569.)

Assessing the correlations between the three retrospectively applied tools:
The Norton scores were significantly correlated to both the Waterlow scores (r=-0.50 or 0.56*; P<.001) and the Braden scores (r=0.48 or 0.49*; P<.001).

*Indicates discrepancy in the article text.

Ash 2002

Pressure ulcers found to be significantly associated with length of stay, completeness of lesion (AIS A versus BCDE), surgical stabilization of the neck, tracheostomy and delayed transfer to SCI unit. Completeness of lesion lends content support to the Braden’s inclusion of sensory perception, Surgical stabilization and tracheostomy may be related to mobility and activity limitations

Waterloo: Area Under Curve (AUC) = 76
CI (95%) 68-84
Braden
AUC = 81
CI (95%) = 74-88
Norton
AUC = 72
CI (95%) 64-81
SCIPUS-A
AUC = 78
CI (95%) = 70-85
3. RESPONSIVENESS – no data available

4. FLOOR/CEILING EFFECT – no data available

5. INTERPRETABILITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author ID</th>
<th>SEM, MDC, MCID, normative &amp; published data</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wellard et al. 2000</td>
<td>Mean (SD) Braden score for 60 patients: 13.8 (1.75), range 10-18&lt;br&gt;4% of patients – no risk&lt;br&gt;29% of patients – low risk&lt;br&gt;46% of patients – moderate risk&lt;br&gt;21% of patients – high risk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ash 2002</td>
<td>Mean (range) Braden score (95% CI) and corresponding risk rating: based on (Bergstrom et al. 1987):&lt;br&gt;23-18 = no risk; 17-13 = low risk; 12-9 = medium risk; 8 = high risk&lt;br&gt;All patients (n=144): 11.1 (10.7-11.5) --- medium&lt;br&gt;Patients w/ ulcers at any stage (n=80): 9.9 (9.6-10.3) --- medium&lt;br&gt;Patients w/ no ulcers at any stage (n=64): 12.6 (12-13.2) --- medium/low</td>
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