

## Title

'Validation of the International Autonomic Standards (IAS) for People Living with Chronic Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)'

## Objectives

To present the preliminary inter-rater reliability of a sub-section of the IAS, an assessment of autonomic function remaining after SCI

## Design

Psychometric evaluation

## Setting

GF Strong Rehabilitation Hospital

## Participants

People in the community living with a trauma related SCI for greater than twelve months.

## Interventions

Administration of the IAS assessment

## Main Outcome Measures

Percent agreement, Coehn's Kappa values

## Results

Fourteen participants, 11 men and 3 women have completed the study. Average age of the participants was 43+/-13 years. Time since injury averaged 14+/-11 years. Ten participants had an injury at or above the sixth thoracic spinal level. Five participants had a neurologically complete injury. For the Bladder, bowel, and sexual function section of the IAS assessment, inter-rater reliability ranged from moderate to strong. In the bladder and bowel section inter-rater reliability was good to strong ( $k=0.65-1.00$ ). In the sexual function section, inter-rater reliability was moderate to good ( $k=0.48-1.00$ )

## Conclusions

Thus far, the bladder, bowel and sexual function section of the IAS appears to have at least moderate, and up to strong inter-rater reliability based on an interim analysis. Further analysis will delineate the inter-rater reliability of the remaining sub-sections, and content validity of the assessment once study recruitment is complete.