

Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI)

PASI

The Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) is a commonly used clinical tool for assessing psoriatic skin changes. The PASI evaluates both the severity of lesions as well as the involved body surface area.

To calculate the PASI, the body is divided into four areas: head and neck, upper limbs, trunk, and lower limbs. Within each region, the severity of erythema, induration, and desquamation is then assessed on a 5-point visual analog scale (VAS) and the extent of body area involved is assessed on a 6-point VAS.

$$PASI = 0.1(E_H + I_H + D_H)A_H + 0.2(E_U + I_U + D_U)A_U + 0.3(E_T + I_T + D_T)A_T + 0.4(E_L + I_L + D_L)A_L$$

	Head & Neck	Upper Limbs	Trunk	Lower Limbs
Area*	$A_H = \text{___} / 6$	$A_U = \text{___} / 4$	$A_T = \text{___} / 6$	$A_L = \text{___} / 6$
Erythema [†]	$E_H = \text{___} / 4$	$E_U = \text{___} / 4$	$E_T = \text{___} / 4$	$E_L = \text{___} / 4$
Induration [†]	$I_H = \text{___} / 4$	$I_U = \text{___} / 4$	$I_T = \text{___} / 4$	$I_L = \text{___} / 4$
Desquamation [†]	$D_H = \text{___} / 4$	$D_U = \text{___} / 4$	$D_T = \text{___} / 4$	$D_L = \text{___} / 4$

*Measured using a VAS of 0-6 where 1=0-9%; 2=10-29%; 3=30-49%; 4=50-69%; 5=70-89%; 6=90-100%

[†]Measured using a VAS of 0-4 where 0=none; 1=mild; 2=moderate; 3=severe; 4=very severe

A_H : area of head and neck; A_U : area of upper limbs; A_T : area of trunk; A_L : area of lower limbs; E_H : erythema of head and neck; E_U : erythema of upper limbs; E_T : erythema of trunk; E_L : erythema of lower limbs; I_H : induration of head and neck; I_U : induration of upper limbs; I_T : induration of trunk; I_L : induration of lower limbs; D_H : desquamation of head and neck; D_U : desquamation of upper limbs; D_T : desquamation of trunk; D_L : desquamation of lower limbs

The PASI score varies from 0 to 72, with higher scores reflecting more severe manifestations of disease. Although the PASI has been criticized for being complex, a 75% improvement in PASI (PASI 75) has been well established as a benchmark of success in clinical trials.

References

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