

Body Surface Area (BSA)

BSA

A commonly used measure of psoriasis (PsO) severity, Body Surface Area (BSA) assesses the extent of body surface involvement. Most commonly, psoriatic lesions are estimated using the “rule of nine” which divides the body into segments that each represent 9% of the body surface area, as seen in the following chart:

Body Surface Area

Area	Surface Involvement
Head & neck	_____ / 9%
Left arm	_____ / 9%
Right arm	_____ / 9%
Left leg (anterior)	_____ / 9%
Right leg (anterior)	_____ / 9%
Left leg (posterior)	_____ / 9%
Right leg (posterior)	_____ / 9%
Upper trunk (anterior)	_____ / 9%
Lower trunk (anterior)	_____ / 9%
Upper back	_____ / 9%
Lower back	_____ / 9%
Genitalia	_____ / 1%
BSA	_____ / 100%

An alternative method to estimate BSA, the number of a patient’s hand areas affected may be assessed with the assumption that hand surface area is representative of 1% of the total body surface area. Research has shown, however, that BSA is often overestimated—possibly due to the fact that one hand is actually representative of less than 1% of total body surface area.

It is important to note that regardless of method, BSA only measures the extent of lesions and not associated quality or morphology as the PASI does.

References

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