

Numerous methods have been used to determine the severity of injury, but none is as well known as the Glasgow Coma Score (GCS).

The GCS is based on the scoring of three separate items: eye opening, best motor response, and verbal response. The perfect score is 15, whereas a totally unresponsive patient receives a score of 3. Based on their GCS, patients are classified in three groups:

- ⊕ GCS of 13–15: mild brain injury
- ⊕ GCS of 9–12: moderate brain injury
- ⊕ GCS of 8 or less: severe brain injury

To have an idea of the distribution on injury severity the epidemiological studies of Kraus and Whitman reported a 75%–80% incidence of minor head injury. Kraus estimates that 80% of all hospital admissions involve minor injuries with the remaining 20% equally divided between moderate and severe.