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**A MODIFIED PAIN SCALE FOR PAIN ASSESMENT**

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Proper pain assesment is critical part of the evaluation and management of pain in both clinical and research settings. The pain assesment tools used presently, Numeric ( 0-10) and VAS, many times provide insufficient information about the severity of pain problem, need of pain intervention and the effectiveness of pain therapies.

We have devised a modified pain scale aimed at a more objective and complete assesment of the pain condition. The new tool uses a combination of descriptive and numeric scale.

We report the use of this modified scale in 500 pain patients, as compared to the Numeric scale. The responses indicated that using the numeric scale alone may lead to under-reporting and under-treatment of pain. It also shows that the numeric scale is a poor indicator of the need for therapy.

72% of the patients who had 5 or less pain score on the Numeric scale indicated the need for further therapy in pain.

0% of the patints who had score of 6 or less requested further therapay.

21% of the patients who rated more then 6 pain felt their pain was tolerable, although they can use help.

Results indicate that using the numeric scale alone may not be truly reflective of their pain problem and may lead to mistreatment of pain.