

Visual Analogue Scale (VAS): Pain**Patient Reported Measure**

Considerations	
Which type of TJA is it appropriate for?	THA and TKA
What part of the TJA continuum is it appropriate for?	Pre-op Acute ¹ Post-acute Active Living
What domain(s) does it measure (ICF?)	Body function
Who completes it?	Patient
What does it measure?	A single dimension measure of joint-specific or global pain intensity at rest or with activity ²⁻⁴
What equipment is required?	Paper copy of VAS, pen, ruler
How long does it take?	~ 1 min to complete and score ⁵
How do I do it?	Instruct the patient to place a single mark on the line to indicate current level of pain. Not suitable for persons with visual or cognitive impairment, or for telephone administration. To avoid error in interpretation, ensure that the VAS line measures 100 mm after printing or photocopying.
How good is it?	Validity: Construct validity – excellent, highly correlated with both verbal and numerical pain scales ⁵ ; however, with no clear operational definition of pain, difficult to determine if another construct is also being measured (e.g. anxiety) ⁶ Reliability: Test-retest - excellent in literate patients attending a rheumatology clinic ⁵ Responsiveness: Able to detect 21 levels of just noticeable differences between initial detection of pain and intolerable pain ⁷ Floor/ceiling effects: None reported in TJA
How is it scored?	Using a ruler, measure the distance in mm from “no pain” anchor to mark on VAS line. Record value between 0 - 100mm ⁴
What do the results mean?	Higher score = more intense pain. Recommended cut points for patients with post-surgical pain: no pain (0-4mm), mild pain (5-44mm), moderate pain (45-74mm), and severe pain (75-100mm) ⁵ . MCID: This is related to the initial score intensity ⁷ . It has been reported at 13mm for initial VAS scores of 34mm or less ^{7, 8} , and as much as 28mm for initial VAS scores of 67mm and greater ⁷ .

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Where can I get it?	www.painedu.org/Downloads/NIPC/Pain%20Assessment%20Scales.pdf www.amda.com/tools/library/whitepapers/hospiceinltc/appendix-a.pdf Note: These scales will need to be modified to 100mm format
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References

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