LEEDS ASSESSMENT OF NEUROPATHIC SYMPTOMS AND SIGNS (LANSS)

ENGLISH (ORIGINAL VERSION)

Bibliographic and contact information for questionnaire

Reference

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Properties of the questionnaire

Language
English

Purpose
Diagnostic/screening: To identify whether pain is likely to be neuropathic in origin.

Assessment
SYMPTOMS:
Five items addressing pain quality and pain triggers

SIGNS:
Two sensory function tests (requires a suitably trained person to administer the instrument)
- Dynamic mechanical allodynia (light brushing)
- Altered pin-prick threshold

Scoring system
Responses to all seven items (five symptoms and two signs) are binary (‘yes’ or ‘no’). Responses are weighted according to the odds ratio for each item when predicting whether pain is neuropathic in origin. Weighted scores for the five symptom items and two sensory tests are summed, giving a total score from 0 to 24. The scoring system was established in a tool development study that preceded the LANSS validation study, and which is described in the same publication as the validation study (Bennett et al. Pain 92: 147-157, 2001).
**Scoring direction**

Score < 12 indicates that the pain is *unlikely* to be neuropathic in origin

Score ≥ 12 indicate that the pain is *likely* to be neuropathic in origin

**Validation population**

Forty (40) chronic pain patients diagnosed either with neuropathic (n = 20) or nociceptive (n = 20) pain were recruited from a chronic pain management service. There were no significant differences between the groups with respect to age, sex ratio, number of patients with malignancy, and ratings of pain intensity and frequency. Participants were administered the questionnaire twice, once by the investigator and once by a clinician.

**Psychometric properties**

**Diagnostic validity** (using a threshold score ≥ 12)

- Sensitivity: 85%
- Specificity: 80%
- Positive predictive value: 81%
- Negative predictive value: 84%

**Construct validity**

All individual questionnaire items were positively associated with a clinical diagnosis.

**Convergent/criterion validity**

Not assessed

**Reliability**

Inter-rater reliability: Good agreement between raters for overall classification of pain type based on LANSS score (Cohen’s kappa coefficient = 0.65) and individual items on the scale (Cohen’s kappa coefficient values ranged between 0.6 and 0.88).

Internal consistency: Good (Cronbach’s alpha = 0.74)
Validation studies for specific pain conditions

CANCER PAIN:

LOW-BACK PAIN:

SPINAL CORD INJURY: (SWEDISH VERSION OF LANSS – NOTE: LOW SENSITIVITY)

Additional information
USED PROSPECTIVELY AS A MEASUREMENT TOOL: