**Background**

Testing the Glasgow Coma Score (GCS) and pupils function form part of a basic neurological screen. Testing pupils for reactivity to light is a combination of testing the sensory function of cranial nerve II and the motor function of cranial nerve III. The GCS is scored between 15 (best) and 3 (worst). A GCS of 13 or greater correlates with a mild brain injury, a GCS of between 9 and 12 correlates with a moderate injury and 8 or less a severe brain injury.

A GCS is composed of the best response in three parameters: eye response, verbal response and motor response. The order of steps will differ depending on the conscious level of the patient. Assessment of eye opening and motor response may be completed simultaneously.

- **Best Eye Response**
  - No eye opening (1)
  - Eye opening to pain (2)
  - Eye opening to verbal command (3)
  - Eyes open spontaneously (4)

- **Best Verbal Response**
  - No verbal response (1)
  - Incomprehensible sounds (2)
  - Inappropriate words (3)
  - Confused (4)
  - Orientated (5)

- **Best Motor Response**
  - No motor response (1)
  - Extension to pain (2)
  - Flexion to pain (3)
  - Withdrawal from pain (4)
  - Localising pain (5)
  - Obey Commands (6)

**Equipment required**
- Penlight torch
- Nitrile gloves
- Face shield
- P2 mask
- Hand sanitiser

**References**

Hohol M. St. Michael’s Hospital Faculty of Medicine. The neurological exam [Internet]. 2014 [cited 2014 May 15].
Available from: http://neuroexam.med.utoronto.ca/

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http://expertinmypocket.com.au