

## **Outcome scales (HoNOSCA-ABI) following head injury**

**Study start date :** *September 2004*

**Funding:** *Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals Research Award  
Chailey Research Fund*

**Research worker:** *Dr Janet Bjorn, Consultant Child and Adolescent Neuro-  
Psychiatrist, Chailey Heritage Clinical Services  
Rhian Parr, Research Assistant, University of Brighton*

---

There is a current lack of assessment tools available for use with children and adolescents with an Acquired Brain Injury (ABI). Those that do exist often fail to provide a global picture of outcome and do not always address changes in the recovery process over time.

The 'Health of the Nation Outcome Scales for Children and Adolescents with Acquired Brain Injury' (HoNOSCA-ABI) has been specifically tailored to assess outcome and recovery among children and adolescents with ABI. The HoNOSCA-ABI looks at many different aspects of a child/adolescent's well-being including their behaviour, level of impairment, associated symptoms and social functioning. There is currently no child/adolescent ABI scale available which looks at all of these domains. The HoNOSCA-ABI is designed to provide a clearly presented global view of the child or adolescent which is readily accessible to healthcare staff as well as parents/carers.

The assessment which is the focus of this research, the HoNOSCA-ABI, has been adapted from the HoNOSCA (Child and Adolescent Mental Health) and HoNOS-ABI (Adult Acquired Brain Injury) by Dr Janet Bjorn, in order to provide a global assessment of children and adolescents with an acquired brain injury. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the reliability, validity, sensitivity and acceptability of the HoNOSCA-ABI.

Approximately six sites specializing in rehabilitation/post-acute ABI in children and adolescents will participate in this study. Eligible patients will be current and consecutive, both in-patients and out-patients, aged between 6-18 years of age. Two raters at each site will administer the initial HoNOSCA-ABI assessment to patients who are approximately 3 to 4 months post-injury, and will then continue to assess patients at monthly intervals.

**Janet Bjorn**  
**Chailey Heritage Clinical Services**  
**14<sup>th</sup> June 2005**