

A new scoring system for assessment of the back before central nerveblocks

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I. The bony part of the spine

1. Palpation and inspection of the spinous process of the back:

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|--------------------------------|----------|
| a, Inspected and well palpated | Score: 0 |
| b, No inspection or palpation | Score: 1 |

2. Integrity of the spine:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| a, Straight spine with normal curves | Score: 0 |
| b, Scoliotic with or without kyphosis | Score: 1 |

II. The soft tissue

3. Presence of scars, extensive fibrosis and/ or calcifications:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| a, Normal soft tissue without scars or calcifications | Score: 0 |
| b, Presence of scars and calcification | Score: 1 |

4. Presence of oedema and/ or thick dense soft tissue:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| a, Thin soft tissue without oedema | Score: 0 |
| b, Thick dense soft tissue with or without oedema | Score: 1 |

Interpretation of the scoring system

Score 0 & 1: Easy and accessible anesthesia

Score 2 & 3: May be difficult and needs skillful anesthetist

Score 4: Difficult access; needs a special aid for assessment like X-ray, Ultrasonic, MRI