

THE BATH AS PATIENT GLOBAL SCORE (BAS-G)

(Jones et al, 1996)

The BAS-G is essentially an objective way of asking the question:

“How have you been over the last x months?”

Jones et al (1996) argue that the BAS-G reflects the effect of AS on the patients well being.

The BAS-G consists of two questions which ask patients' to indicate, on a 10cm visual analog scale, the effect the disease has had on their well being over the

- last week
- last six months.

The mean of the two scores gives a BAS-G score of 0 – 10 (refer to page 13). The higher the score, the greater the perceived effect of the disease on the patient's well being.

With a sample of 177 inpatients and 215 patients reached by a postal survey, the authors found that:

- 1) BAS-G scores covered the whole 0 – 10 scale for both time frames (1 week & 6 months).
- 2) BAS-G correlated well with both BASDAI and BASFI.
This suggests that disease activity and functional ability play a major role in patients' well being – more than metrology.
- 3) Of the 5 BASDAI items, spinal pain followed by fatigue correlated best with BAS-G. This highlights the importance of pain and fatigue to the patient.
- 4) BAS-G demonstrated statistically significant ($p < 0.001$) sensitivity to change.
(Jones et al, 1996).

The authors acknowledged that BAS-G cannot stand alone, and should be one element of a complete assessment. However, an index of this type provides a numerical value to the patient's sense of well being. This allows for comparison between consultations, especially when patients may not necessarily be seen by the same clinician on each occasion.

The authors conclude that they have formalized and validated a simple question frequently asked (Jones et al, 1996).

The Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Global Score (BAS-G)

PLEASE CHECK, IF YOU DOWNLOAD ANY BATH INDICES, THAT ANY 10 CM LINES ON THE INDICES, DO PRINT AS 10 CM IN LENGTH. IF THEY DO NOT, THIS CAN AFFECT ACCURACY OF SCORING.

TOTAL / 10

How have you been over the last week?

VERY GOOD _____ VERY BAD

How have you been over the last six months?

VERY GOOD _____ VERY BAD

TOTAL OUT OF 20

TOTAL / 2 (BAS-G SCORE)

BAS-G Score

Scores from the 2 questions are calculated using a ruler and added. This figure is divided by 2 to obtain an average, this is the BAS-G score. The higher the BAS-G score, the more severe the effect of AS on the patient's life.

Please Note:

When using visual analog scales of a set length (10cm in the case of the Bath Indices), great care must be taken in reproducing assessment paperwork as repeated photocopying, for example, may distort the length of the lines and therefore will affect the accuracy of the scoring.