

Outcome Measure	Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS)
Sensitivity to Change	Yes
Population	Adult
Domain	Health-Related Quality of Life
Type of Measure	Self-report
ICF-Code/s	e4
Description	<p>The SWLS (Diener et al., 1985) is a self-rating scale that aims to measure “global life satisfaction”. It was designed as a generic instrument and has been commonly used with the TBI group.</p> <p>Five items are used, each focused on providing a rating of life satisfaction as a whole. For example, Item 1: “In most ways my life is close to ideal”. Items are intentionally global, rather than specific, which enables an overall judgment.</p> <p>Ratings are made on a 7-point scale: 1 (strongly disagree), 2 (disagree), 3 (slightly disagree), 4 (neither agree nor disagree), 5 (slightly agree), 6 (agree), 7 (strongly agree). Total score ranges from 5 to 35, with higher scores indicating greater satisfaction. Pavot and Diener (1993) suggest interpretation of various score ranges as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) 5-9 = extremely dissatisfied (2) 10–14 = dissatisfied (3) 15-19 = slightly dissatisfied (4) 20 = the neutral point (5) 21–25 = slightly satisfied (6) 26–30 = satisfied (7) 31-35 = extremely satisfied
Properties	<p>See Tate (2010)</p> <p>Normative data for various student and non-student populations are reported in Pavot and Diener (1993). Comparative data from people with TBI are reported in Corrigan et al. (2001).</p> <p>Test-retest reliability: 2 months: .82</p> <p>Internal Consistency = $\alpha = .87$; factor analysis suggests a single factor.</p> <p>COMBI site: Rasch analysis on 777 pts with TBI by Allen Heinemann and colleagues at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (personal communication) found that Item #5 had the poorest fit. More research needed on the validity of its inclusion in the context of TBI.</p>
Advantages	Brevity, free (in the public domain), taps cognitive component of SWB. Many TBI studies have used the SWLS as an outcome measure and investigated predictors. Data from some studies are summarized on the COMBI site.

	<p>Two examples of studies examining predictors of SWL:</p> <p>Corrigan et al. (2001) prospective longitudinal study – found that absence of pre-injury substance abuse and being employed at follow-up were associated with higher life satisfaction both 1 and 2 years after injury. SWL at 1- year follow-up was predicted by greater motor independence at rehabilitation discharge. SWL at 2 year follow-up was associated with better social integration and lower depression. Although life satisfaction was largely stable over time, changes were influenced by marital status and depressed mood. They concluded that satisfaction with life after TBI was related to achieving healthy and productive lifestyles.</p> <p>Davis et al. (2012) examined the influence of pre-injury factors on SWL at 1-year post-TBI. Injury-related and demographic variables did not contribute significantly to differences in SWLS scores. However, pre-injury functioning (education, productivity/employment) and pre-injury health status (psychiatric and substance use problems, severe sensory dysfunction, learning problems, prior TBI) contributed significant but modest amounts (2.9% and 3.8%). Hence, a lot of variance was unaccounted for.</p>
Disadvantages	Lack of data on responsiveness to change. As a subjective global construct it is unclear what standards or conditions people assess their life satisfaction according to (see Tate, 2010). Need to examine responsiveness to intervention, although I would suspect that it is not overly sensitive to change. Certain interventions (e.g., vocational rehab and placement) might impact more than others.
Additional Information	The SWLS is a Core measure in the Perceived Generic and Disease-Specific Health-Related QOL Domain in Wilde et al (2010).
Reviewers	Tamara Ownsworth

References

- Corrigan, J. D., Bogner, J. A., Mysiw, W. J., Clinchot, D., & Fugate, L. (2001). Life satisfaction after traumatic brain injury. *The Journal of head trauma rehabilitation*, 16(6), 543-555.
- Davis, L. C., Sherer, M., Sander, A. M., Bogner, J. A., Corrigan, J. D., Dijkers, M. P., ... & Seel, R. T. (2012). Preinjury predictors of life satisfaction at 1 year after traumatic brain injury. *Archives of physical medicine and rehabilitation*, 93(8), 1324-1330.
- Tate, R. L. (2010) *A compendium of tests, scales, and questionnaires: The practitioners guide to measuring outcomes after acquired brain impairment*. Psychology Press.