

PCS (Sullivan et al., 1995)

Everyone experiences painful situations at some point in their lives. Such experiences may include headaches, tooth pain, joint or muscle pain. People are often exposed to situations that may cause pain such as illness, injury, dental procedures or surgery.

We are interested in the types of thoughts and feelings that you have when you are in pain. Listed below are 13 statements describing different thoughts and feelings that may be associated with pain. Using the following scale, please indicate the degree to which you have these thoughts and feelings when you are experiencing pain.

- 0- not at all
- 1- to a slight degree
- 2- to a moderate degree
- 3- to a great degree
- 4- all the time

1. I worry all the time about whether the pain will end	0	1	2	3	4
2. I feel I can't go on	0	1	2	3	4
3. It's terrible and I think it's never going to get any better	0	1	2	3	4
4. It's awful and I feel that it overwhelms me	0	1	2	3	4
5. I feel I can't stand it anymore	0	1	2	3	4
6. I become afraid that the pain will get worse	0	1	2	3	4
7. I keep thinking of other painful events	0	1	2	3	4
8. I anxiously want the pain to go away	0	1	2	3	4
9. I can't seem to keep it out of my mind	0	1	2	3	4
10. I keep thinking about how much it hurts	0	1	2	3	4
11. I keep thinking about how badly I want the pain to stop	0	1	2	3	4
12. There's nothing I can do to reduce the intensity of the pain	0	1	2	3	4
13. I wonder whether something serious may happen	0	1	2	3	4

Sullivan, M., Bishop, Sc & Pivik, J. (1995). The pain catastrophizing scale: development and validation. *Psychological Assessment*, 7(4), 524-532.

SCORING

Total score out of 52.

A PCS total score ≥ 24 indicates a high level of pain catastrophizing.

Subscales:

Rumination subscale: items 8, 9, 10, 11

Magnification subscale: items 6, 7, 13

Helplessness subscale: items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 12