

Complete versus incomplete spinal cord injury

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A spinal cord injury is incomplete when there is preservation of perianal sensation. Types of incomplete spinal cord injury There are several types of incomplete spinal cord injuries. These include: /uni25CF central cord syndrome; /uni25CF Brown-Séguard syndrome (hemisection); /uni25CF anterior spinal syndrome; /uni25CF posterior cord syndrome; /uni25CF cauda equina syndrome. Charles Edward Brown-Séguard , 1817-1894, physiologist and neurologist who held a number of academic posts, among them Physician, the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, London, UK (1860-1864), Professor of Medicine at Harvard University , Boston, MA, USA (1864-1878), and at the Collège de France, Paris, France (1878-1894). He described his syndrome in 1851.

TABLE 30.1 Expected functional outcome versus level of cervical spinal cord injury. Level of injury Functional goal C3-C4 Power wheelchair with mouth or chin control. Verbalise care, communicate through adaptive equipment. May be ventilator dependent C5 Power wheelchair, dress upper body, self-feed with aids, wash face with assistance C6 Propel power wheelchair, possibly push manual wheelchair, transfer with assistance, dress upper body (lower body with assistance), self-groom with aids, bladder/bowel care with assistance, self-feed with splints, able to drive C7 Manual wheelchair, independent transfer, dressing (with aids), feeding, bathing, self-care. Bladder and bowel care with assistance C8-T4 Independent with most activities of daily living, and bowel and bladder care T5-T12 As above but with more ease. Independent with all self-care L1-L5 Independent. Walk with short or long leg braces S1-S5 Independent, able to walk if able to push off (S1) (may need brace). Bladder, bowel and sexual function may remain compromised TABLE 30.2 Life expectancy (years) post injury by severity of injury and age at injury. Age at injury No SCI Motor functional at any level a For people who survive the /f_i rst 24 hours 20 58.4 52.8 40 39.5 34.3 60 22.2 17.9 b For people surviving at least 1 year post injury 20 58.4 53.3 40 39.5 34.8 60 22.2 18.3 SCI, spinal cord injury.

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