

## APPENDIX I - GLASGOW OUTCOME SCALE

Below are listed the five outcomes of the Glasgow Outcome Scale. The last three categories are operationally defined in terms of social outcome.

- 1 Dead.
- 2 Vegetative.
- 3 Severe disability. Conscious but dependent. For some part of every 24 hours the client requires the assistance of another person. It may be that he is totally dependent, or it may be that he needs someone only to help him get dressed, or to walk; but he is not a person who could be left alone for the weekend, to cook his own meals or to answer the door. He is dependent. There are degrees of dependency, but Jennet and Bond believe the important and crucial factor, particularly in young clients, is whether or not they are independent.
- 4 Moderate disability. Disabled but independent. They can go on public transport, and are often able to work although frequently they work at a reduced level to that which they previously did.
- 5 Good recovery. May have some mild residual signs but are able to indulge in all their previous normal activities, both recreational as well as those at work.

Time scale of recovery: Of 118 persons who, one year after their severe head injury were in the category of "moderate disability" 60% were already in that category within three months of injury and 90% were "moderate" within six months of injury. For 200 patients who were in the "good recovery" category by the end of the year, the proportions were almost exactly the same. This then is the basis of their statement that 6 months is a reasonable time to assess recovery. There may be further improvement after 6 months in some cases but only in 10% or less of cases will this be of sufficient degree to justify putting someone in the next higher grade. They report not having seen a single case who was severely disabled at 3 months make a "good recovery" by their classification.

Adapted from Jennet in Dinning and Connelly, 1981.