

# Visual analogue scale valid for assessing pediatric anxiety

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(HealthDay)—A visual analogue scale (VAS) score is valid for assessing

anxiety among children during induction of anesthesia, according to a study published online July 14 in *Pediatric Anesthesia*.

Johan M. Berghmans, M.D., from Queen Paola Children's Hospital in Belgium, and colleagues examined anxiety during induction of anesthesia among 401 [children](#) (aged 1.5 to 16 years) scheduled for daytime surgery. Parents and [anesthesiologists](#) rated children's anxiety during induction on a VAS, while the modified Yale Preoperative Anxiety Scale was used by a trained observer.

The researchers found that there were strong correlations between parents' and anesthesiologists' VAS and modified Yale Preoperative Anxiety Scale scores (0.68 and 0.73, respectively). Children aged  $\leq 5$  years had higher VAS scores than children aged  $\geq 6$  years. Children of highly anxious parents had higher VAS scores than those of low-anxious parents. There was a mean difference of 3.6 between parents' and anesthesiologists' VAS scores. Cut-offs of  $\geq 37$  mm and  $\geq 30$  mm were established for parents and anesthesiologists, respectively, to classify [anxious children](#).

"The present data provide preliminary data for the validity of a visual analogue scale to assess children's [anxiety](#) during induction," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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