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## Online Assessment Tool Evaluates Concussion in Athletes

**Bakersfield, CA (Jan. 16, 2014)** Concussion, a perplexing and sometimes hidden injury in sports, can now be evaluated in real time with a free, user-friendly online tool offered by Centre for Neuro Skills (CNS). The SCAT3™ (Sport Concussion Assessment Tool, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition) is an established standardized test that helps to diagnose the signs and symptoms of head trauma on the field, at courtside, or in a coach's office.

"Sports concussions are a serious matter," said Dr. Mark J. Ashley, president and chief executive officer of CNS. "Prevention and early detection are essential, especially in student athletes. The risk of brain injury is heightened in the pursuit of so many competitive sports opportunities during their formative years."

Another impetus for offering SCAT3 on the CNS Web site is to bring greater awareness to those who work with athletes. A concussion is a disturbance in brain function caused by direct or indirect force. It results in a host of non-specific signs and often does not involve unconsciousness. To the untrained eye, the player may seem well enough to return to the game. Many do, encouraged by those who may have misinterpreted symptoms or don't know how to identify a concussed athlete.

To address this, SCAT3 is specific in its evaluation criteria. Cognitive and physical capabilities are measured in a series of tests in which the observer asks questions and has the subject perform basic tasks, such as walking or counting backward. The evaluation is easy for both observer and subject. The interface is intuitive, similar to taking any form of an online test. Yet it has well-known clinical tools, such as the Glasgow Coma Scale and Maddocks Score.

SCAT3 is a series of question and answer assessments for any athlete age 13 or older who is suspected of having a concussion. A coach or health professional can conduct the test on a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer. Balance, vision, behavior, memory, pain, and coordination are among the metrics measured. Vital background information on the player is also chronicled including age, gender, medication use, and concussion history.

The assessment takes just minutes to complete. Results can be conveyed to emergency rooms, hospitals, and physicians to support treatment. Once completed, users may access each athlete's profile repeatedly on the CNS Web site. Users create a secure, private account with an email and password. Individual athlete profiles are stored on the site; the protected information is not shared with outside sources, and it is not used by CNS.

"We all need to know that concussion can lead to chronic, progressive brain injury," Dr. Ashley said. "SCAT3 helps us to intervene and hopefully prevent irreversible damage."

To begin an assessment, please visit [neuroskills.com/scat/login.php](http://neuroskills.com/scat/login.php)

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### About Centre for Neuro Skills:

Centre for Neuro Skills is recognized as an experienced and respected world leader in providing intensive rehabilitation and medical programs to individuals recovering from all types of brain injury. CNS effectively covers a full spectrum of care from inpatient and assisted living to outpatient/day treatment. For additional information about Centre for Neuro Skills, please visit [neuroskills.com](http://neuroskills.com), see us at #neuroskills, or call us at 800.922.4994.