DISADVANTAGES OF The University of Melbourne Pain Scale: A Behavioral and Physiological Response SCALE

Disadvantages of the UMPS include limited validation to date. The specific types of patients and procedures in which the UMPS would be expected to be accurate have not been elucidated.

1. The UMPS may not be sensitive enough to detect small changes in pain behaviors, particularly if patient evaluations are performed only periodically.

2. The UMPS was designed to evaluate dogs following surgery. The accuracy of the scale for other uses or for use in other species has not been established.

3. The UMPS requires some knowledge of the demeanor (mental and behavioral status) of the dog before anesthesia and surgery. Although the veterinary staff usually knows this, the dog’s actual temperament when truly comfortable at home will probably not be known. In other words, the demeanor of the dog after surgery will be compared with an already altered demeanor that exists simply because the dog is in a veterinary hospital and away from familiar surroundings. An important consideration is that previous experiences may play a significant role in the response of a patient and may alter the accuracy of the scale.