

**Table S1. The rating sheet with scores applied for each behavioral item of the forelimb**

Rat #:	Days post-surgery:	Date:	Scores:     /L;     /R;     /Average
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	Articular movements of the forelimb			Forelimb	Weight support	
	Shoulder	Elbow	Wrist		Stationary	Active
Absent	0	0	0		1	1
Slight	1	1	1			
Normal	2	2	2			

	Digit position			Stepping								
	Flexed	Atonic	Extended	Paw placement at initial contact				Paw orientation during liftoff			Movement	
				Dorsal	Plantar							
					I	E	P	I	E	P	Regular	Irregular
Forelimb	0	1	2	0	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1

	Forelimb and hindlimb coordination
Absent	0
Occasional	1
Frequent	2

Notes: (1) Abbreviations: I, internal; E, external; P, parallel; L, left forelimb; R, right forelimb. (2) These points are added up to the total score of 18 for the forelimb. (3) This sheet is adapted from Ref. [24] (Martinez, M., Brezun, J.M., Bonnier, L., Xerri, C. A new rating scale for open-field evaluation of behavioral recovery after cervical spinal cord injury in rats. Journal of neurotrauma 2009; 26, 1043-1053).