

**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		
	Shoulder	Elbow	Wrist
Absent	0	0	0
Slight	1	1	1
Normal	2	2	2

	Weight support	
	Stationary	Active
Forelimb	1	1

	Digit position			Stepping									
	Flexed	Atonic	Extended	Paw placement at initial contact			Paw orientation during liftoff			Movement			
				Dorsal	Plantar		I	E	P	Regular	Irregular		
					I	E						P	
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).