

Table SII.  $\kappa$  coefficient of agreement for various sets of visual analogue scale (VAS) bands with respect to verbal rating scale (VRS) scores

VAS cut-off values <sup>a</sup>		3-6-8	3-6-9	3-7-8	3-7-9	4-6-8	4-6-9	4-7-8	4-7-9
All subjects (n=949)	$\kappa$ (95%)	0.56 (0.53-0.59)	0.57 (0.59-0.65)	0.57 (0.54-0.80)	<b>0.64 (0.61-0.67)</b>	0.55 (0.51-0.58)	0.61 (0.58-0.64)	0.56 (0.53-0.59)	0.63 (0.60-0.66)
	r	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.91	0.91	0.9	0.9
Male (n=446)	$\kappa$ (95%)	0.54 (0.50-0.59)	0.59 (0.54-0.63)	0.55 (0.51-0.60)	<b>0.60 (0.56-0.65)</b>	0.53 (0.49-0.58)	0.58 (0.53-0.63)	0.54 (0.50-0.59)	<b>0.60 (0.55-0.64)</b>
	r	0.91	0.91	0.9	0.9	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89
Female (n=503)	$\kappa$ (95%)	0.56 (0.52-0.61)	0.65 (0.61-0.69)	0.58 (0.53-0.62)	<b>0.66 (0.62-0.70)</b>	0.56 (0.51-0.90)	0.64 (0.60-0.68)	0.57 (0.52-0.61)	<b>0.66 (0.61-0.70)</b>
	r	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92

<sup>a</sup>A VAS cut-off scheme of (3-6-8) refers to the following set of cut-off values: 0 < 3: mild pruritus;  $\geq 3$  to < 6: moderate pruritus;  $\geq 6$  to < 8: severe pruritus;  $\geq 8$ : very severe pruritus. Bold indicates bands with the best agreement.