

Dystonia movement and disability scales
The Fahn-Marsden dystonia scales

Movement scale

This consists of provoking factors (scored 0-4) and severity factors (scored 0-4). Some are given a weight of ½, and others a weight of 1. All three are multiplied to give the adjusted score; all scores are summed to give an overall score from 0 to 120.

Provoking factors

General

0	No dystonia at rest or with action
1	Dystonia on particular action
2	Dystonia on many actions
3	Dystonia on action of distant part of body, or intermittently at rest
4	Dystonia present at rest

Speech and swallowing

0	None
1	Occasional, either or both
2	Frequent, either
3	Frequent one, occasional other
4	Frequent both

Severity factors

Eyes	
0	No dystonia present
1	Slight. Occasional blinking
2	Mild. Frquent blinking without prolonged spasms of eye closure
3	Moderate. Prolonged spasms of eyelid closure, but eyes open most of the time
4	Severe. Prolonged spasms of eyelid closure, with eyes closed at least 30% of the time
Mouth	
0	No dystonia present
1	Slight. Occasional grimacing or other mouth movements (eg, jaw open or clenched; tongue movement)
2	Mild. Movement present less that 50% of the time
3	Moderate dystonic movements or contractions present most of the time.
4	Severe dystonic movements or contractions present most of the time.
Speech and swallowing	
0	Normal
1	Slightly involved; speech easily understood or occasional choking
2	Some difficulty in understanding speech or frequent choking
3	Marked difficulty in understanding speech or inability to swallow firm foods
4	Complete or almost complete anarthria, or marked difficulty swallowing soft foods or liquids
Neck	
0	No dystonia present
1	Slight. Occasional pulling

	2	Obvious torticollis, but mild
	3	Moderate pulling
	4	Extreme pulling
Arm		
	0	No dystonia present
	1	Slight dystonia. Clinically insignificant
	2	Mild. Obvious dystonia but not disabling
	3	Moderate. Able to grasp, with some manual function
	4	Severe. No useful grasp
Trunk		
	0	No dystonia present
	1	Slight bending; clinically insignificant
	2	Definite bending but not interfering with standing or walking
	3	Moderate bending; interfering with standing or walking
	4	Extreme bending of trunk preventing standing or walking
Leg		
	0	No dystonia present
	1	Slight dystonia but not causing impairment; clinically insignificant
	2	Mild dystonia. Walks briskly and unaided
	3	Moderate dystonia. Severely impairs walking or requires assistance.
	4	Severe. Unable to stand or walk on involved leg.

Scoring.

Region	Provoking factor	Severity factor	Weight	Score
Eyes			0.5	
Mouth			0.5	
Speech/swallowing			1.0	
Neck			0.5	
Right arm			1.0	
Left arm			1.0	
Trunk			1.0	
Right leg			1.0	
Left leg			1.0	
			Total	

Dystonia disability scale

Speech			
	0	Normal	
	1	Slightly involved, easily understood	
	2	Some difficulty in understanding	
	3	Marked difficulty in understanding	
	4	Complete or almost complete anarthria	
Handwriting			
	0	Normal	
	1	Slight difficulty; legible	
	2	Almost illegible	
	3	Illegible	
	4	Unable to grasp to maintain hold on pen	

Feeding			
	0	Normal	
	1	Uses 'tricks'; independent	
	2	Can feed but not cut	
	3	Finger food only	
	4	Completely dependent	
Eating/swallowing			
	0	Normal	
	1	Occasional choking	
	2	Chokes frequently; difficulty in swallowing	
	3	Unable to swallow firm foods	
	4	Marked difficulty swallowing soft foods and liquids	
Hygiene			
	0	Normal	
	1	Clumsy; independent	
	2	Needs help with some activities	
	3	Needs help with most activities	
	4	Needs help with all activities	
Dressing			
	0	Normal	
	1	Clumsy; independent	
	2	Needs help with some activities	
	3	Needs help with most activities	
	4	Helpless	
Walking			
	0	Normal	
	1	Slightly abnormal; hardly noticeable	
	2	Moderately abnormal; obvious to naïve observer	
	3	Considerably abnormal	
	4	Needs assistance to walk	
	6	Wheel-chair bound	
			Total

Reference:
Burke et al 1985