



Original Date:
Revision Date: 3/09

NIH Stroke Scale

Item	CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	Patient's Initial Score	Patient's Prior to t-PA Score	Patient's Post t-PA Score
1a.	Level of Consciousness (LOC)	0 = Alert, keenly responsive 1 = Drowsy, arouses to minimal stimulation 2 = Stuporous, requires repeated stimulation 3 = Coma			
1b.	LOC Questions (Month, Age)	0 = Answers both correctly 1 = Answers one correctly 2 = Both incorrect			
1c.	LOC Commands (open, close eyes; make fist, let go)	0 = Obeys both correctly 1 = Obeys one correctly 2 = Both incorrect			
2	Best Gaze (eyes open - patient follows finger or face)	0 = Normal 1 = Partial gaze palsy 2 = Forced deviation			
3	Visual (introduce visual stimulus to patient's visual field quadrants)	0 = No visual field loss 1 = Partial hemianopia 2 = Complete hemianopia (one side) 3 = Bilateral hemianopia (across the axis) or blindness			
4	Facial Palsy (show teeth, raise eyebrows, and squeeze eyes shut)	0 = normal symmetrical movement 1 = minor paralysis (flattened nasolabial fold, asymmetry on smiling) 2 = partial paralysis (total or near paralysis of lower face) 3 = complete paralysis of one or both sides (absence of facial movement in the upper and lower face)			
5a.	Motor Arm - Left (Elevate extremity to 90 degrees and score drift/movement)	0 = No drift 1 = Drift before 10 seconds 2 = Some effort against gravity; falls before 10 sec 3 = No effort against gravity, finger/shoulder movement noted 4 = no movement			
5b.	Motor Arm - Right (Elevate extremity to 90 degrees and score drift/movement)	0 = No drift 1 = Drift before 10 seconds 2 = Some effort gravity; falls before 10 sec 3 = No effort against gravity, finger/shoulder Movement noted 4 = no movement			



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Item	Category	Description	Patient's Initial Score	Patient's Prior to t-PA Score	Patient's Post t-PA Score
6a.	Motor Leg – Left (elevate extremity to 30 degrees and score drift/movement)	0 = No drift 1 = Drift before 5 seconds 2 = Some effort against gravity; falls before 5 sec 3 = No effort against gravity, toe/hip movement noted 4 = no movement			
6b.	Motor Leg – Right (elevate extremity to 30 degrees and score drift/movement)	0 = No drift 1 = Drift before 5 seconds 2 = Some effort against gravity; falls before 5 sec 3 = No effort against gravity, toe/hip movement noted 4 = no movement			
7	Limb Ataxia (Finger – nose; heel – shin)	0 = Absent 1 = Present in one limb 2 = Present in two or more limbs			
8	Sensory (Paperclip to face, arm, trunk, and leg – compare side to side)	0 = Normal 1 = Mild to moderate decrease in sensation 2 = Severe to total sensory loss (unaware of being touched)			
9	Best Language-Comprehension (Name items, describes a picture, reads a sentence)	0 = No aphasia 1 = Mild to moderate aphasia (loss of fluency) 2 = Severe aphasia (fragmentary expression) 3 = Mute			
10	Dysarthria (Evaluate speech clarity by patient repeating listed words)	0 = Normal articulation 1 = Mild to moderate slurring of words 2 = Near unintelligible or unable to speak <i>Score "0" if intubated or other barrier</i>			
11	Extinction and Inattention (to bilateral simultaneous stimulation: visual, tactile, auditory, spatial or personal)	0= No neglect 1= Partial neglect 2= Complete neglect			
TOTAL SCORE					
INITIALS					
			Date	Date	Date
			Time	Time	Time

Initial/ Signature

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