

Oswestry Disability Index

Section 1 – Pain Intensity

- I have no pain at the moment.
- The pain is very mild at the moment.
- The pain is moderate at the moment.
- The pain is fairly severe at the moment.
- The pain is very severe at the moment.
- The pain is the worst imaginable at the moment.

Section 2 – Personal Care (washing, dressing, etc.)

- I can look after myself normally but it is very painful.
- I can look after myself normally but it is very painful.
- It is painful to look after myself and I am slow and careful.
- I need some help but manage most of my personal care.
- I need help every day in most aspects of my personal care.
- I need help every day in most aspects of self-care.
- I do not get dressed, wash with difficulty, and stay in bed.

Section 3 - Lifting

- I can lift heavy weights without extra pain.
- I can lift heavy weights but it gives extra pain.
- Pain prevents me from lifting heavy weights off the floor, but I can manage if they are conveniently positioned (i.e. on a table).
- Pain prevents me from lifting heavy weights, but I can manage light to medium weights if they are conveniently positioned.
- I can lift only very light weights.
- I cannot lift or carry anything at all.

Section 4 – Walking

- Pain does not prevent me walking any distance.
- Pain prevents me walking more than 1 mile.
- Pain prevents me walking more than ¼ of a mile.
- Pain prevents me walking more than 100 yards.
- I can only walk using a stick or crutches.
- I am in bed most of the time and have to crawl to the toilet.

Section 5 – Sitting

- I can sit in any chair as long as I like.
- I can sit in my favorite chair as long as I like.
- Pain prevents me from sitting for more than 1 hour.
- Pain prevents me from sitting for more than ½ hour.
- Pain prevents me from sitting for more than 10 minutes.
- Pain prevents me from sitting at all.

Section 6 – Standing

- I can stand as long as I want without extra pain.
- I can stand as long as I want but it gives me extra pain.
- Pain prevents me from standing more than 1 hour.
- Pain prevents me from standing for more than ½ an hour.
- Pain prevents me from standing for more than 10 minutes.
- Pain prevents me from standing at all.

Section 7 – Sleeping

- My sleep is never disturbed by pain.
- My sleep is occasionally disturbed by pain.
- Because of pain, I have less than 6 hours sleep.
- Because of pain, I have less than 4 hours sleep.
- Because of pain, I have less than 2 hours sleep.
- Pain prevents me from sleeping at all.

Section 8 – Sex life (if applicable)

- My sex life is normal and causes no extra pain.
- My sex life is normal but causes some extra pain.
- My sex life is nearly normal but is very painful.
- My sex life is severely restricted by pain.
- My sex life is nearly absent because of pain.
- Pain prevents any sex life at all.

Section 9 – Social Life

- My social life is normal and cause me no extra pain.
- My social life is normal but increases the degree of pain.
- Pain has no significant effect on my social life apart from limiting my more energetic interests, i.e. sports.
- Pain has restricted my social life and I do not go out as often.
- Pain has restricted social life to my home.
- I have no social life because of pain.

Section 10 – Traveling

- I can travel anywhere without pain.
- I can travel anywhere but it gives extra pain.
- Pain is bad but I manage journeys of over two hours.
- Pain restricts me to short necessary journeys under 30 minutes.
- Pain prevents me from traveling except to receive treatment.

Section 11 - Previous Treatment

Over the past three months have you received treatment, tablets or medicines of any kind for your back or leg pain? Please check the appropriate box.

- No
- Yes (if yes, please state the type of treatment you have received)

Neck Disability Index

This questionnaire has been designed to give the doctor information as to how your neck pain has affected your ability to manage in everyday life. Please answer every section and mark in each section only the ONE box which applies to you. We realize you may consider that two of the statements in any one section relate to you, but please just mark the box which most closely describes your problem.

Section 1 – Pain Intensity

- I have no pain at the moment. (0)
- The pain is very mild at the moment. (1)
- The pain is moderate at the moment. (2)
- The pain is fairly severe at the moment. (3)
- The pain is very severe at the moment. (4)
- The pain is the worst imaginable at the moment. (5)

Section 2 – Personal Care (Washing, Dressing, etc.)

- I can look after myself normally without causing extra pain. (0)
- I can look after myself normally but it causes extra pain. (1)
- It is painful to look after myself and I am slow and careful. (2)
- I need some help but manage most of my personal care. (3)
- I need help every day in most aspects of self care. (4)
- I do not get dressed, I wash with difficulty and stay in bed. (5)

Section 3 – Lifting

- I can lift heavy weights without extra pain. (0)
- I can lift heavy weights but it gives extra pain. (1)
- Pain prevents me from lifting heavy weights off the floor, but I can manage if they are conveniently positioned, for example on a table. (2)
- Pain prevents me from lifting heavy weights, but I can manage light to medium weights if they are conveniently positioned. (3)
- I can lift very light weights. (4)
- I cannot lift or carry anything at all. (5)

Section 4 – Reading

- I can read as much as I want to with no pain in my neck. (0)
- I can read as much as I want to with slight pain in my neck. (1)
- I can read as much as I want with moderate pain in my neck. (2)
- I cannot read as much as I want because of moderate pain in my neck. (3)
- I can hardly read at all because of severe pain in my neck. (4)
- I cannot read at all. (5)

Section 5 – Headaches

- I have no headaches at all. (0)
- I have slight headaches that come infrequently. (1)
- I have moderate headaches which come infrequently. (2)
- I have moderate headaches which come frequently. (3)
- I have severe headaches which come frequently. (4)
- I have headaches almost all the time. (5)

Section 6 – Concentration

- I can concentrate fully when I want to with no difficulty. (0)
- I can concentrate fully when I want to with slight difficulty. (1)
- I have a fair degree of difficulty in concentrating when I want to. (2)
- I have a lot of difficulty in concentrating when I want to. (3)
- I have a great deal of difficulty in concentrating when I want to. (4)
- I cannot concentrate at all. (5)

Section 7 – Work

- I can do as much work as I want to. (0)
- I can do my usual work, but no more. (1)
- I can do most of my usual work, but no more. (2)
- I cannot do my usual work. (3)
- I can hardly do any work at all. (4)
- I cannot do any work at all. (5)

Section 8 – Driving

- I can drive my car without any neck pain. (0)
- I can drive my car as long as I want with slight pain in my neck. (1)
- I can drive my car as long as I want with moderate pain in my neck. (2)
- I cannot drive my car as long as I want because of moderate pain in my neck. (3)
- I can hardly drive at all because of severe pain in my neck. (4)
- I cannot drive my car at all. (5)

Section 9 – Sleeping

- I have no trouble sleeping. (0)
- My sleep is slightly disturbed (less than 1 hour sleepless). (1)
- My sleep is mildly disturbed (1-2 hours sleepless). (2)
- My sleep is moderately disturbed (2-3 hours sleepless). (3)
- My sleep is greatly disturbed (3-5 hours sleepless). (4)
- My sleep is completely disturbed (5-7 hours sleepless). (5)

Section 10 – Recreation

- I am able to engage in all my recreation activities with no neck pain at all. (0)
- I am able to engage in all my recreation activities, with some pain in my neck. (1)
- I am able to engage in most, but not all, of my usual recreation activities because of pain in my neck. (2)
- I am able to engage in a few of my usual recreation activities because of pain in my neck. (3)
- I can hardly do any recreation activities because of pain in my neck. (4)
- I cannot do any recreation activities at all. (5)

| | |
|-------|----------------------------|
| 0-4 | No disability |
| 5-14 | Mild disability |
| 15-24 | Moderate disability |
| 25-34 | Severe disability |
| > 35 | Complete disability |

Functional Strength of the Cervical Spine

| Starting Position | Action | Functional Test |
|--|--|--|
| Supine lying | Lift head keeping chin tucked in (neck flexion) | 6 to 8 repetitions: functional 3 to 5 repetitions: functionally fair 1 to 2 repetitions: functionally poor 0 repetitions: nonfunctional |
| Prone lying | Lift head backward (neck extensions) | Hold 20 to 25 seconds: functional Hold 10 to 19 seconds: functionally fair Hold 1 to 9 seconds: functionally poor Hold 0 seconds: nonfunctional |
| Side lying (pillows under head so head is not side flexed) | Lift head sideways away from pillow (neck side flexion) (must be repeated on other side) | Hold 20 to 25 seconds: functional Hold 10 to 19 seconds: functionally fair Hold 1 to 9 seconds: functionally poor Hold 0 seconds: nonfunctional |
| Supine lying | Lift head off bed and rotate to one side keeping head off bed or pillow (neck rotation) (must be repeated both ways) | Hold 20 to 25 seconds: functional Hold 10 to 19 seconds: functionally fair Hold 1 to 9 seconds: functionally poor Hold 0 seconds: nonfunctional |

SCORING TECHNIQUE FOR THE OSWESTRY LOW BACK DISABILITY QUESTIONNAIRE AND NECK DISABILITY INDEX

- Each of the 10 sections is scored separately (0 to 5 points each) and then added up (max. total = 50).

Example:

| Section 1. Pain Intensity | Point Value |
|--|-------------|
| A. ___ I have no pain at the moment | 0 |
| B. ___ The pain is very mild at the moment | 1 |
| C. ___ The pain is moderate at the moment | 2 |
| D. ___ The pain is fairly severe at the moment | 3 |
| E. ___ The pain is very severe at the moment | 4 |
| F. ___ The pain is the worst imaginable | 5 |

- If all 10 sections are completed, simply double the patient's score.
- If a section is omitted, divide the patient's total score by the number of sections completed times 5.

Formula:

$$\frac{\text{Patient's Score}}{\text{No. of sections completed} \times 5} \times 100 = \text{\% DISABILITY}$$

Example:

If 9 of 10 sections are completed, divide the patient's score by 9 x 5 = 45.

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Patient's Score} && 22 \\ &\text{Number of sections completed: } 9 (9 \times 5 = 45) && \\ &&& 22/45 \times 100 = 48\% \text{ disability} \end{aligned}$$

- Interpretation of disability scores (from original article):

| SCORE INTERPRETATION OF THE OSWESTRY LBP DISABILITY QUESTIONNAIRE | |
|--|---|
| 0-20% Minimal disability | Can cope with most ADLs. Usually no treatment is needed, apart from advice on lifting, sitting, posture, physical fitness, and diet. In this group, some patients have particular difficulty with sitting and this may be important if their occupation is sedentary (typist, driver, etc.) |
| 20-40% Moderate disability | This group experiences more pain and problems with sitting, lifting, and standing. Travel and social life are more difficult and they may well be off work. Personal care, sexual activity, and sleeping are not grossly affected, and the back condition can usually be managed by conservative means. |
| 40-60% Severe disability | Pain remains the main problem in this group of patients, but travel, personal care, social life, sexual activity, and sleep are also affected. These patients require detailed investigation. |
| 60-80% Crippled | Back pain impinges on all aspects of these patients' lives both at home and at work. Positive intervention is required. |
| 80-100% | These patients are either bed-bound or exaggerating their symptoms. This can be evaluated by careful observation of the patient during the medical examination. |
| <i>Data compiled from Fairbanks et al, 1980.</i> | |