

Canadian Cardiovascular Society Functional Classification of Angina

Overview:

The Canadian Cardiovascular Society Classification of angina pectoris separates patients with anginal symptoms into groups based on the severity of their symptoms. The classification uses the extent of limitation on daily activities and the kind of physical activity which precipitates the anginal episode.

Clinical Findings	Features	Grade
no limitation of ordinary activity	Ordinary physical activity (such as walking or climbing stairs) does not cause angina. Angina may occur with strenuous rapid or prolonged exertion at work or recreation.	I
slight limitation of ordinary activity.	Angina may occur with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • walking or climbing stairs rapidly; • walking uphill; • walking or stair climbing after meals or in the cold in the wind or under emotional stress; • walking more than 2 blocks on the level at a normal pace and in normal conditions • climbing more than 1 flight of ordinary stairs at a normal pace and in normal conditions 	II
marked limitation of ordinary physical activity	Angina may occur after <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • walking 1-2 blocks on the level or • climbing 1 flight of stairs in normal conditions at a normal pace 	III
unable to carry on any physical activity without discomfort	Angina may be present at rest.	IV

This can be modified (Hackett 1978 Shub 1996 to include exercise tolerance.

Exercise Tolerance	Functional Class
7-8 METs	I
5-6 METs	II
3-4 METs	III
1-2 METs	IV

where:

- MET = metabolic equivalent = VO₂ of 3.5 mL O₂ per (kg • min) while the patient is sitting

References:

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