

The Oxford Handicap Scale

Overview: The Oxford Handicap Scale is a simple means of grading patient handicap. It is a modification of the Rankin scale that has been used for evaluating patients following stroke in England (Oxfordshire). The score can be followed over time to monitor a patient's condition and response to interventions.

Handicap	Lifestyle	Grade
none	no change	0
minor symptoms	no interference	1
minor handicap	some restrictions but able to look after self	2
moderate handicap	significant restriction; unable to lead a totally independent existence (requires some assistance)	3
moderate-to-severe handicap	unable to live independently but does not require constant attention	4
severe handicap	totally dependent; requires constant attention day and night	5

References:

Bamford JM Sandercock PAG et al. Letter to the Editor: Interobserver agreement for the assessment of handicap in stroke patients. Stroke. 1989; 20: 828 (Table 2).