

## The Rankin Scale For Stroke Disability

Overview: Rankin described a grading scheme for the disability of stroke patients at the time of hospital discharge or transfer.

Patient Status	Grade
no significant disability able to carry out usual duties	I
slight disability unable to carry out some activities done previously able to look after own affairs without assistance	II
moderate disability able to walk without assistance requires some help	III
moderately severe disability unable to walk without assistance unable to attend to own bodily needs without assistance	IV
severe disability bedridden incontinent requires constant nursing care and attention	V

### Limitation:

- Some physical laborers may be identified as Grade II if unable to return to a previous level of demanding activities even though otherwise quite fit.
- A patient may recover function more slowly so that disability may be less after several months than when discharged after the acute event.

### References:

Rankin J. Cerebral vascular accidents in patients over the age of 60: II. Prognosis. Scot Med J. 1957; 2: 200-215 (210).