Scales in stroke patients: the modified Rankin Scale

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Abstract

The modified Rankin Scale (mRS) is a 7-level ordered categorical scale, which captures levels of patient functional independence following a stroke, with scores ranging from 0 (fully independent) to 6 (dead). The mRS has been reported to be a valid and reliable endpoint in randomized clinical trials and, as such, it is a common and recommended outcome measure in acute ischaemic stroke studies. In clinical practice, the mRS offers an easy and rapid assessment of the effect of a patient’s stroke on their activities and participation in a social context. Furthermore, its everyday use generally goes beyond stroke disability and broadens to global patient functional (in)dependence, aiding in several decisions concerning patient management. The application of a structured interview helps to classify patients in a more reliable way and improve inter-rater reliability.

Since the interpretation and application of this scale is so important to those who manage or conduct research on stroke, a focused workshop is provided, including pitfalls as well as practical use recommendations.