



Physical Therapy & Vestibular Rehabilitation

Modified Oswestry Low Back Pain Disability Questionnaire

Patient Name: _____ Date: _____

Pain Intensity

- I can tolerate the pain I have without having to use pain medication.
- The pain is bad, but I can manage without having to take pain medication.
- Pain medication provides me with complete relief from pain.
- Pain medication provides me with moderate relief from pain.
- Pain medication provides me with little relief from pain.
- Pain medication has no effect on my pain.

Personal Care (washing, dressing, etc.)

- I can take care of myself normally without causing increased pain.
- I can take care of myself normally, but it increases my pain.
- It is painful to take care of myself, and I am slow and careful.
- I need help, but I am able to manage most of my personal care.
- I need help every day in most aspects of my care.
- I do not get dressed, I wash with difficulty, and I stay in bed.

Lifting

- I can lift heavy weights without increased pain.
- I can lift heavy weights, but it causes increased pain.
- Pain prevents me from lifting heavy weights off the floor, but I can manage if the weights are conveniently positioned (e.g., 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.

Walking

- Pain does not prevent me from walking any distance.
- Pain prevents me from walking more than 1 mile (1.6 km).
- Pain prevents me from walking more than 1/2 mile.
- Pain prevents me from walking more than 1/4 mile.
- I can walk only with crutches or a cane.
- I am in bed most of the time and have to crawl to the toilet.

Sitting

- I can sit in any chair as long as I like.
- I can only 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 1/2 hour.
- Pain prevents me from sitting for more than 10 minutes.
- Pain prevents me from sitting at all.

Standing

- I can stand as long as I want without increased pain.
- I can stand as long as I want, but it increases my pain.
- Pain prevents me from standing for more than 1 hour.
- Pain prevents me from standing for more than 1/2 hour.
- Pain prevents me from standing for more than 10 minutes.
- Pain prevents me from standing at all.

Sleeping

- Pain does not prevent me from sleeping well.
- I can sleep well only by using pain medication.
- Even when I take medication, I sleep less than 6 hours.
- Even when I take medication, I sleep less than 4 hours.
- Even when I take medication, I sleep less than 2 hours.
- Pain prevents me from sleeping at all.

Social Life

- My social life is normal and does not increase my pain.
- My social life is normal, but it increases my level of pain.
- Pain prevents me from participating in more energetic activities (e.g., sports, dancing)
- Pain prevents me from going out very often.
- Pain has restricted my social life to my home.
- I have hardly any social life because of my pain.

Traveling

- I can travel anywhere without increased pain.
- I can travel anywhere, but it increases my pain.
- My pain restricts my travel over 2 hours.
- My pain restricts my travel over 1 hour.
- My pain restricts my travel to short necessary journeys under 1/2 hour.
- My pain prevents all travel except for visits to the doctor / therapist or hospital.

Employment / Homemaking

- My normal homemaking / job activities do not cause pain.
- My normal homemaking / job activities increase my pain, but I can still perform all that is required of me.
- I can perform most of my homemaking / job duties, but pain prevents me from performing more physically stressful activities (e.g., lifting, vacuuming).
- Pain prevents me from doing anything but light duties.
- Pain prevents me from doing even light duties.
- Pain prevents me from performing any job or homemaking chores.

0 _____ 10
Please mark where your pain level is on a scale from 0-10.

(Score ___ x2)/(___ Sections x10) = _____ %ADL disability
MDC = 10 percentage points MCID = 6 percentage points

Source: Fritz JM, Irrgang JJ. A comparison of a modified Oswestry Low Back Pain Disability Questionnaire and the Quebec Back Pain Disability Scale. *Physical Therapy*. 2001;81:776-788.