Gross Motor Function Classification System of Palisano et al for Assessing Mobility in a Child 6 to 12 Year of Age With Cerebral Palsy

Overview: Palisano et al used a classification system for gross motor function to describe mobility in children with cerebral palsy.

Subjects: children 6 to 12 years of age

Parameters:

(1) mobility

(2) going outdoors or into the community

Mobility	Going Outdoors or Into the Community	Level
walks without restriction	limited by more advanced gross motor skills	I
walks without assistive devices	limitations when walking outdoors or in the community	II
walks with assistive device	limitations when walking outdoors or in the community	III
limited self-mobility	going outdoors or about the community requires transportation or powered device	IV
self-mobility severely limited even with assistive device(s)	totally dependent; mobility severely limited	V

where:

• There are greater difficulties with mobility outdoors or in the community because of uneven terrain hills stairs without elevators and other topographic features.

References:

Palisano RJ Rosenbaum PL et al. Development and reliability of a system to classify gross motor function in children with cerebral palsy. Dev Med Child Neurol. 1997; 39: 214-223.

Rosenbaum PL Walter SD et al. Prognosis for gross motor function in cerebral palsy. Creation of motor development curves. JAMA. 2002; 288: 1357-1363. (Box page 1359).