

Incapacity Scale of Kurtzke

Overview: Kurtzke proposed the Incapacity Score to assess disability in a patient with multiple sclerosis but it can also be applied as a general disability rate score. It was based on scales adapted by Carl Granger. The author is from Georgetown University in Washington D.C.

Parameters:

- (1) stair climbing
- (2) ambulation (walking)
- (3) chair and bed transfer
- (4) toilet transfer
- (5) bowel function (extreme indicates frequent incontinence or ostomy and unable to maintain)
- (6) bladder function
- (7) bathing
- (8) dressing
- (9) grooming
- (10) feeding
- (11) vision
- (12) speech and hearing (communication)
- (13) physical problems (medical orthopedic)
- (14) societal role (ordinary occupation)
- (15) fatigability
- (16) psychic function (mood and mentation; extreme impairment indicates dementia or psychosis)

Performance	Points
normal (no impairment)	0
impaired but can manage without aid; mild impairment	1
impaired requires mechanical aid; moderate impairment	2
impaired requires human aid; severe impairment	3
unable to do at all; extreme impairment	4

total score = SUM(points for all 16 items)

Impression:

- minimum score: 0
- maximum score: 64
- The higher the score the more severe the total impairment.

References:

Kurtzke JF. Initial proposal for a uniform minimal record of disability. *Acta Neurologica Scandinavica*. 1981; 64 (Supplement 87): 48-51.

Kurtzke JF. A proposal for a uniform minimal record of disability in multiple sclerosis. *Acta Neurologica Scandinavica*. 1981; 64 (Supplement 87): 110-129 (page 125 with definitions pages 127-129)