

# The Global Assessment of Pain and Related Symptoms

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# Global Impression of Change

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Since your last visit (start of study, last month)  
how would you rate your pain?

Much  
Worse

Worse

A little  
Worse

No  
Change

A little  
Better

Better

Much  
Better

# Global Impression of Change

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Since your last visit (start of study, last month) how would you rate your pain?

Very  
Much  
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Much  
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Worse

A little  
Worse

No  
Change

A little  
Better

Better

Much  
Better

Very  
Much  
Better

# Global Questions - Other Terminology in the Literature

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# Global Questions - Other Terminology in the Literature

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- global indicator
- global measure
- global perception of change
- global impression of change
- global response
- global assessment
- single-item response
- medication performance
- transition question
- patient satisfaction

# Does the Order of Questions Matter

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- German Potato Study
  - Are potatoes a German food? 40% yes
- Second set of questions
  - Is rice a Chinese food?
  - Is pasta an Italian food?
  - Are potatoes a German food? 60% yes

# What do we mean by “global”?

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**Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary:**

**Global is defined as**

- universal or
- comprehensive

**Global = Overall?**



# Global Question - What Dimension?

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## Global Pain

- Global Health
- Overall Function
- Overall Mood
- Global Quality of Life?



# Global Question - What structure

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- Global Rating
  - 0-10 NRS, VRS, VAS?
- Global Change
  - 0-10 NRS does not make sense
  - Verbal is better and has meaning



# Global Rating

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- Level (current status)
- Importance (distress)
- Satisfaction

# Global Rating of Quality of Life Possible Measure

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Overall how would you rate your quality of life:

0\_\_1\_\_2\_\_3\_\_4\_\_5\_\_6\_\_7\_\_8\_\_9\_\_10

Worst  
Possible

Best  
Possible

# Calculated Models of Quality of Life

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- General health
- Physical functioning
- Social functioning
- Psychological functioning
- Spiritual functioning

**Who decides how important each factor is?**

**How can a summary value be determined?**



# Total Score is Determined by the Weighting of Each Question

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- Number of questions
- Structure of questions
  - Sequential
  - Independent components
- Value of the scale used for each question
  - » (0-10); (1-4); (yes-1 : no-0)
- Summary value calculation
  - » Arithmetic
  - » Multiplicative
  - » Regression formula

# Calculated Model of Quality of Life

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## SF-36 Factor analysis dimensions

- Bodily pain
- Mental health
- Physical-role
- Physical functioning
- Social functioning
- Health transition
- Emotional role
- General health

# Global Rating of Quality of Life Possible Alternative

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- Start with multiple questions:
  - Covering all domains to be considered
  - To get subject to think about all areas
  - For use in etiologic and predictive modeling
  - For face and context validity
- Followed by a global question:
  - “Considering all of the above...”
  - Allows the subject to integrate the factors
  - Use as the primary outcome?

# Global Rating of Quality of Life Possible Measure

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First administer the SF-36 scale

Considering all these factors, overall how would you rate your quality of life?

0\_\_1\_\_2\_\_3\_\_4\_\_5\_\_6\_\_7\_\_8\_\_9\_\_10

Worst  
Possible

Best  
Possible





# Global Rating of Pain

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1. Please rate your pain by circling the one number that best describes your pain at its worst in the last 24 hours
2. Please rate our pain by circling the one number that best describes your pain at its least in the last 24 hours
3. Please rate our pain by circling the one number that best describes your pain on the average
4. Please rate our pain by circling the one number that tells how much pain you have right now
5. Overall - how would you rate your pain?

0\_\_1\_\_2\_\_3\_\_4\_\_5\_\_6\_\_7\_\_8\_\_9\_\_10  
Best possible Worst possible



# Pain Interference Questions?

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Describe how during the past 24 hours pain has interfered with your:  
(Does Not (0%) to Completely (100%))

- General Activity
- Mood
- Walking Ability
- Normal work (both work outside and inside the home)
- Relations with other people
- Sleep
- Sexual activity
- Enjoyment of life

**Given all of these factors how would you rate the overall level of your pain?**

0 \_ 1 \_ 2 \_ 3 \_ 4 \_ 5 \_ 6 \_ 7 \_ 8 \_ 9 \_ 10  
Best possible Worst possible



# Survey of Course Participants

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- How do you feel about this lecture?

0\_\_1\_\_2\_\_3\_\_4\_\_5\_\_6\_\_7\_\_8\_\_9\_\_10  
Complete Waste of Time Best Use of My Time

# Ask the Question a Different Way

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- How do you feel about being in DC? (Bermuda?)  
0\_\_1\_\_2\_\_3\_\_4\_\_5\_\_6\_\_7\_\_8\_\_9\_\_10  
Complete Waste of Time Best Use  
of My Time
- How do you feel about being indoors on this warm afternoon
- How do you feel about your significant other enjoying the beach and sand without you
- How do you feel about spending your Saturday at this meeting.

# Based on All of the Above

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- Now, how do you feel about this lecture?

0\_\_1\_\_2\_\_3\_\_4\_\_5\_\_6\_\_7\_\_8\_\_9\_\_10

Complete  
Waste of Time

Best Use  
of My Time

# Global Rating => Global Change

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For global rating questions  
change is calculated as (after - before)

What is a clinically important change?

=> Instead, why not ask the patient?

# Global Impression of Change

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- **Types**
  - **Change**      (-3 to 0 to +3)
  
  - **Relief**      (Percent relief)
  
  - **Medication Performance**  
(poor, fair, good, very good, excellent)
  
- **Compared to what?**

# Global Impression of Change

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How would you rate the change in your \_\_\_\_\_  
(pain, function, quality of life)  
over the last \_\_\_\_\_ (month, week, day)  
or - since the start of the study  
or - since your last visit

Much  
worse

Worse

A little  
worse

No  
change

A little  
better

Better

Much  
better



# Summary

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- Clinical Question:  
Is the benefit (taking into account the possible risk) of the treatment going to make it worthwhile for the patient to try it?
- Questionnaire total score or change:
  - Modeling vs
  - Global question

# Advantages of Global Approach

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- Can get combined outcomes
- Allows patients to integrate factors
- Provides explanation of response
- Allows comparison across studies (with data about the differences)
- Perhaps it will allow us to compare across cultures

# Recommendations

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- Patient global impression of change (PGIC)
  - Use balanced 7 or 9 point scale
  - For pain - Yes. For quality of life? For function?
- Consider additional global impression of change and global rating questions
- Tie each global rating question and global change question to a construct defined by a series of questions

**The  
End**