

# Bush-Francis Catatonia Rating Scale

**Severity Score** (Number of points for items 1 -23) \_\_\_\_\_

**Screening Score** (Presence or absence of items 1 – 14) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of items 1-23 \_\_\_\_\_

Patient: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Examiner: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Immobility/stupor:** Extreme hypoactivity, immobile, minimally responsive to stimuli.

0 - Absent.

1 - Sits abnormally still, may interact briefly.

2 - Virtually no interaction with external world.

3 - Stuporous, non-reactive to painful stimuli.

**2. Mutism:** Verbally unresponsive or minimally responsive.

0 = Absent.

1 = Verbally unresponsive to majority of questions; incomprehensible whisper.

2 = Speaks less than 20 words/5mins.

3 = No speech.

**3. = Staring:** Fixed gaze, little or no visual scanning of environment, decreased blinking.

0 = Absent.

1 = Poor eye contact, repeatedly gazes less than 20 s between shifting of attention; decreased blinking.

2 = Gaze held longer than 20 s, occasionally shifts attention.

3 = Fixed gaze, non-reactive.

**4. Posturing/catalepsy:** Spontaneous maintenance of posture (s), including mundane (e.g. sitting or standing for long periods without reacting).

0 = Absent.

1 = Less than 1 min.

2 Greater than one minute, less than 15 min.

3 Bizarre posture, or mundane maintained more than 15 min.

**5. Grimacing:** Maintenance of odd facial expressions.

0 = Absent.

1 = Less than 10seconds.

2 = Less than 1 min.

3 = Bizarre expression(s) or maintained more than 1 min.

**6. Echopraxia/echolalia:** Mimicking of examiner's movements (echopraxia) or speech (echolalia).

0 = Absent

1 = Occasional.

2 = Frequent.

3 = Constant

**7. Stereotypy:** Repetitive, non-goal-directed motor activity (e.g. finger-play, repeatedly touching, patting or rubbing self); abnormality not inherent in act but in its frequency.

0 - Absent

1 - Occasional.

2 - Frequent.

3 - Constant.

**8. Mannerisms:** Odd, purposeful movements (hopping or walking tiptoe, saluting passers-by or exaggerated caricatures of mundane movements); abnormality inherent in act itself.

- 0 - Absent
- 1 - Occasional.
- 2 - Frequent.
- 3 - Constant.

**9. Stereotyped & meaningless repetition of words & phrases** (verbigeration): Repetition of phrases or sentences (like a scratched records).

- 0 - Absent.
- 1 - Occasional.
- 2 - Frequent, difficult to interrupt.
- 3 - Constant.

**10. Rigidity:** Maintenance of a rigid position despite efforts to be moved (exclude if cog-wheeling or tremor present)

- 0 = Absent.
- 1 = Mild resistance.
- 2 = Moderate.
- 3 = Severe, cannot be repositioned.

**11. Negativism:** Apparently motiveless resistance to instructions or attempts to move/examine patients. Contrary behavior, does exact opposite of instruction.

- 0 - Absent
- 1 - Mild resistance and/or occasionally contrary.
- 2 - Moderate resistance and/or frequently contrary.
- 3 - Severe resistance and/or continually contrary.

**12. Waxy flexibility:** During repositioning of patient, patient offers initial resistance before allowing him/herself to be repositioned, similar to that of a bending candle. (also defined as slow resistance to movement as the patient allows the examiner to place his/her extremities in unusual positions. The limb may remain in the position in which they are placed or not)

- 0 - Absent
- 3 - Present.

**13. Withdrawal:** Refusal to eat, drink and/or make eye contact.

- 0 = Absent.
- 1 = Minimal oral intake/interaction for less than 1 day.
- 2 = Minimal oral intake/interaction for more than 1 day.
- 3 = No oral intake/interaction for 1 day or more.

**14. Excitement:** Extreme hyperactivity, constant motor unrest which is apparently non-purposeful. Not to be attributed to akathisia or goal-directed agitation.

- 1 - Excessive motion, intermittent.
- 2 - Constant motion, hyperkinetic without rest periods.
- 3 - Full-blown catatonic excitement, endless frenzied motor activity.

-----End of Screening Items-----

**15. Impulsivity:** Patient suddenly engages in inappropriate behavior (e.g. runs down hallway, starts screaming or takes off clothes) without provocation. Afterwards can give no, or only a facile explanation.

0 - Absent.

1 - Occasional.

2 - Frequent.

3 - Constant or not redirectable.

**16. Automatic obedience:** Exaggerated cooperation with examiner's request or spontaneous continuation of movement requested.

0 = Absent.

1 = Occasional

2 = Frequent

3 = Constant.

**17. Passive Obedience** (mitgehen): Patient raises arm in response to light pressure of finger, despite instructions to the contrary.

0 = Absent.

3 = Present.

**18. Muscle Resistance** (gegenhalten): Involuntary resistance to passive movement of a limb to a new position. Resistance increases with the speed of the movement.

0 - Absent

3 - Present.

**19. Motorically Stuck** (ambitendency): Patient appears stuck in indecisive, hesitant motor movements.

0 - Absent.

3 = Present.

**20. Grasp reflex:** Striking the patient's open palm with two extended fingers of the examiner's hand results in automatic closure of patients hand.

0 = Absent

3 = Present

**21. Perseveration:** Repeatedly returns to same topic or persists with the same movements.

0 = Absent.

3 = Present.

**22. Combativeness:** Belligerence or aggression, Usually in an undirected manner, without explanation.

0 = Absent

1 = Occasionally strikes out, low potential for injury.

2 = Frequently strikes out, moderate potential for injury.

3 = Serious danger to others.

**23. Autonomic abnormality:** Abnormality of body temperature (fever), blood pressure, pulse, respiratory rate, inappropriate sweating, flushing.

0 = Absent

1 = Abnormality of one parameter (exclude pre-existing hypertension).

2 = Abnormality of two parameters.

3 = Abnormality of three or more parameters.

