

Validity and Reliability of the Thai Version of the Barthel Index for Elderly Patients with Femoral Neck Fracture

Panai Laohaprasitiporn MD*, Atthakorn Jarusriwanna MD*, Aasis Unnanuntana MD*

* Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand

Background: Hip fracture is a common osteoporotic fracture that requires a specific outcome measurement tool to evaluate functional status. The authors aimed to develop the Thai version of the Barthel Index (TVBI) and to evaluate the validity and reliability of TVBI for assessment of elderly patients with femoral neck fracture.

Material and Method: The Barthel Index (BI) was translated into Thai using a forward-backward translation protocol. Fifty-three patients with low-energy femoral neck fracture were then prospectively enrolled and evaluated with TVBI, the de Morton Mobility Index (DEMMI), the EuroQol-5D (EQ-5D), the two-minute walk test (2MWT), and the timed get-up-and-go test (TUG) within 2 weeks after surgery. Validity of TVBI was assessed by calculating the index of item-objective congruence and correlating TVBI scores with scores from other outcome measurements. TVBI reliability was evaluated by measuring test-retest reliability and internal consistency.

Results: TVBI had high content validity and strong correlation with DEMMI (Spearman's $\rho = 0.629$; p -value < 0.001), and moderate correlation with EQ-5D utility score, EQ-5D visual analog scale, and 2MWT (Spearman's $\rho = 0.452, 0.313,$ and 0.413 , respectively; p -value < 0.05). Interobserver and intraobserver reliabilities of TVBI were high, with intraclass correlation coefficients of 0.714 and 0.968, respectively. The internal consistency of TVBI was acceptable (Cronbach's $\alpha = 0.694$).

Conclusion: TVBI yields good validity and reliability, is without floor or ceiling effects, and can be used in all patients during early postoperative treatment after femoral neck fracture.

Keywords: Barthel index, femoral neck fracture, osteoporosis, reliability, validity

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Hip fracture is a common osteoporotic fracture among the elderly and represents a major public health concern. Elderly hip fracture results in serious health consequences with significant mortality and morbidity^(1,2). Most hip fractures are treated by surgical intervention. Although surgery for hip fracture is relatively straightforward, less than half of hip-fracture patients are able to regain function to pre-injury level⁽³⁾, with many requiring intensive rehabilitation during the postoperative period. Therefore, elderly hip fracture should be regarded as a unique condition that requires a specific outcome measurement tool to evaluate functional status.

During the past few decades, a number of clinical tools were developed to measure outcomes in the elderly population. Barthel Index is one of the most widely used questionnaires for evaluating the

functional status of elderly patients. This index comprises 10 questions regarding basic activities of daily living. Although the Barthel Index was initially developed to assess self-care of stroke patients, it was later validated in many medical conditions, including spinal cord injury, congestive heart failure, and pneumonia⁽⁴⁻⁶⁾. Therefore, the Barthel Index is a well-accepted outcome measurement tool for evaluating functional recovery in chronically ill patients and for assessing patient self-care. Until now, the Barthel Index had not yet been translated into Thai language and had not yet been validated in patients with femoral neck fracture.

The objectives of the present study were to develop the Thai version of the Barthel Index (TVBI) and to determine the reliability and validity of TVBI for assessment of elderly patients with femoral neck fracture.

Material and Method

The study protocol and consent form were approved by the Siriraj Institutional Review Board (SIRB) and registered in the ClinicalTrials.gov Protocol Registration and Results System (PRS)

Correspondence to:

Unnanuntana A, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, 2 Wang Lang Road, Bangkok noi, Bangkok 10700, Thailand.

Phone: +66-2-4197968

E-mail: uaasis@gmail.com

(NCT02512094). The authors prospectively enrolled patients from the in-hospital orthopaedic units at Siriraj Hospital from June 2014 to July 2015. During the study period, 62 patients with low-energy femoral neck fracture were screened. Patients with suspected pathological fracture associated with major injuries of the lower extremities, bone metabolism other than osteoporosis, or severe cognitive and/or neurologic impairment (e.g., dementia and Parkinson's disease) were excluded. Patients were evaluated by 2 independent investigators on the same day. Data including age, gender, body mass index, Charlson comorbidity index, type of surgery, pre-injury walking status, and living conditions were collected and recorded. Written informed consent was provided by each patient.

Outcome measurement tools

Each patient was evaluated within 2 weeks after surgical treatment for femoral neck fracture. Functional performance was assessed by TVBI, the de Morton Mobility Index (DEMMI), and the Thai version of the EuroQol 5D (EQ-5D). Each patient was also asked to perform the 2-minute walk test (2MWT) and the timed get-up-and-go test.

Barthel Index

The Barthel Index is an ordinal scale that is used to evaluate physical performance in activities of daily living (ADL). It contains ten variables that describe ADL and mobility. Each item is rated on a scale with a given number of points assigned to each level or ranking. Each item has a scoring range that varies by item for a possible total score of 100. Any verbal or physical assistance required to perform each task is used to determine the appropriate score for each item. A higher score indicates a greater likelihood of the patient being independent at home after discharge from the hospital.

Development of the Thai version of the Barthel Index (TVBI)

The original Barthel Index was translated into Thai language using a forward-backward translation protocol according to linguistic validation guidelines⁽⁷⁾. This process involved two translations of the Barthel Index from English to Thai, one each by a professional English translator and a physician. The two translations were then discussed and modified into one version. The backward translation from Thai into English was made by a local professional translator

who had no access to the original Barthel Index. The backward version was compared to the original English Barthel Index to identify any misunderstandings, mistranslations, or inaccuracies in the intermediary forward version of the questionnaire. This process resulted in changes to the first version and the development of the second version. Next, a group of experts in fragility hip fracture that consisted of 2 orthopaedic surgeons, 1 orthopaedic chief resident, 1 research methodologist, and 1 fracture liaison service nurse were asked to evaluate the content validity of TVBI. Each expert rated each item on the TVBI according to how well that item does or does not address or achieve the established objective. Each item was given a score of either 1 (agree), 0 (unsure/unclear), or -1 (disagree). The index of item-objective congruence for each item was calculated using the average score of all experts for that questionnaire item⁽⁸⁾. The last step of the translation protocol involved exposing patients to the TVBI for purposes of evaluating understandability.

de Morton Mobility Index

The de Morton Mobility Index (DEMMI) is a clinical tool that is used to evaluate level of patient mobility⁽⁹⁾. DEMMI has been validated among patients in rehabilitation following hip fracture⁽¹⁰⁾ and is freely available by download from www.demmi.org.au. DEMMI is administered to measure physical performance and consists of 15 items, including three bed, three chair, four static balance, two walking, and three dynamic balance items. Each mobility item is measured on a two (able/unable) or three (able/partial/unable) point scale. The sum score (ranging from 0-58) is then converted to an interval score (ranging from 0-100), with 0 representing poor mobility and 100 indicating high level of independent mobility.

EuroQol

The EQ-5D is a questionnaire used in clinical practice and research that is self-completed by respondents. This clinical tool is a reliable and valid instrument for assessing health-related quality of life of elderly patients with a femoral neck fracture⁽¹¹⁾ that has been translated into Thai language⁽¹²⁾. EQ-5D is composed of 2 parts: EQ-5D-5L utility score (EQ-US) and EQ visual analogue scale (EQ-VAS). The first part (EQ-US) contains 5 questions that elicit information about patient mobility, self-care, daily activities, pain/discomfort, and anxiety/depression dimensions. Each dimension is rated on a 5-point Likert scale (no

problems, slight problems, moderate problems, severe problems, and extreme problems), resulting in a utility score that ranges from -1 (minimum) to 1 (maximum)⁽¹³⁾. The second part (EQ-VAS) is a self-evaluated scale in which patients are asked to score their health status on a visual analog scale (VAS) that ranges from 0 (worst possible health status) to 100 (best possible health status).

Two-minute walk test (2MWT)

Patients were asked to walk up and down a designated corridor for two minutes. Patients were instructed to walk at their normal pace and to turn around at the ends of the corridor without stopping⁽¹⁴⁾. They were allowed to rest, if required, with rest periods being included in the timing. Results were recorded as total distance walked in meters.

Timed get-up-and-go test (TUG test)

Patients were instructed to rise from a high-seated chair, walk at a safe and comfortable pace to a mark three meters away, and return to a sitting position with their backs against the chair⁽¹⁵⁾. Patients were permitted to use their arms when rising from and returning to a seated position. A stopwatch was used to measure the time used to complete this activity (to the nearest one tenth of a second). Patients were asked to perform this task three times, with the average time calculated and recorded.

Data analysis

Data analyses were performed using SPSS Statistics version 16 (SPSS, Inc., Chicago, IL, USA). Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was used to assess the distribution of data. Content validity was determined using the index of item-objective congruence. Construct validity was evaluated by comparing TVBI scores with scores from DEMMI, EQ-US, EQ-VAS, 2MWT, and TUG test. Construct validity was determined by calculating Spearman's correlation coefficient. Correlation coefficients of 0.1 to 0.3 were considered weak; 0.3 to 0.6, moderate; and >0.6, strong⁽¹⁶⁾.

To determine test-retest (intraobserver) reliability, all patients were evaluated with TVBI and re-evaluated with TVBI 7-days later by the same examiner while still admitted in the hospital. To determine interobserver reliability, TVBI was tested twice by 2 examiners at a different time point on the same day. Interobserver and intraobserver reliabilities were analyzed using intraclass correlation coefficient. Reliability of TVBI was also tested by determining

Cronbach's alpha as a measure of internal consistency. A Cronbach's alpha within the range of 0.7 to 0.9 was considered acceptable⁽¹⁷⁾. In addition, the distribution of scores was calculated to evaluate for ceiling and floor effects. A ceiling or floor effect was considered to exist if >15% of subjects achieved the lowest or highest possible score⁽¹⁷⁾.

Results

Sixty-two patients were screened during the study period. Nine patients were excluded, as follows: 3 patients with pathological fracture, 1 patient with other major extremity injuries, and 5 patients with severe cognitive impairment. Accordingly, 53 patients were enrolled in the present study. Mean age of study participants was 77.3 years, with most subjects being female (81.1%) (Table 1). Thirty-seven patients (69.8%) had Charlson comorbidity index ≥ 1 . Forty-four patients (83%) had cementless bipolar hemiarthroplasty, 7 patients (13.2%) had cemented bipolar hemiarthroplasty, and 2 patients (3.8%) received multiple screw fixation. Before fracture, 35 patients (66.0%) walked without gait aid and the majority (98.1%) lived independently at home.

Baseline outcome measurement scores were shown in Table 2. TVBI scores were normally distributed (Kolmogorov-Smirnov test, $p = 0.077$), while other outcome measurement scores were not normally distributed (Kolmogorov-Smirnov test, $p < 0.01$). For the 2MWT and TUG tests, scores were not obtained from 13 participants. Three patients were unable to perform the requested tasks and 10 patients were discharged before the tests could be administered due to a lack of investigators. TVBI demonstrated no floor or ceiling effect (Fig. 1).

All 10 items on the TVBI had good content validity. Four items (feeding, personal toilet, bowel control, and bladder control) had index of item-objective congruence of 0.8, while the rest of the variables had index of item-objective congruence of 1.0. Construct validity was shown in Table 3. TVBI was strongly correlated with DEMMI (Spearman's rho = 0.629). Moderate correlations were identified between TVBI and EQ-US, EQ-VAS, and 2MWT (Spearman's rho ranged from 0.313 to 0.452). The test for association between TVBI and TUG test resulted in a negative value (-0.311), which means that an increase in TVBI score is associated with less time used to perform the TUG test. The correlation between TVBI and TUG test, however, was not statistically significant ($p = 0.065$).

Table 1. Patient demographic and clinical data

Clinical variables	Total (n=53)
Age* (years)	77.3±8.1
Female patients	43 (81.1%)
Body mass index* (kg/m ²)	23.4±4.8
Charlson comorbidity index	
- 0	16 (30.2%)
- 1-2	30 (56.6%)
- >3	7 (13.2%)
Type of surgery	
- Multiple screw fixation	2 (3.8%)
- Cemented bipolar hemiarthroplasty	7 (13.2%)
- Cementless bipolar hemiarthroplasty	44 (83.0%)
Walking status before fracture	
- No assisting device	35 (66.0%)
- Cane	10 (18.9%)
- Walker	8 (15.1%)
- Wheelchair	0 (0%)
Living independently before fracture	52 (98.1%)

*Data presented as mean±standard deviation

Table 2. Patient baseline scores

Outcome measurement tool	Mean±standard deviation	Median (interquartile range)
Thai version of the Barthel Index (n = 53)	43.0±14.4	45 (35-50)
de Morton Mobility Index (n = 53)	25.9±8.3	27 (22-31.5)
EQ-5D-5L utility score (n = 53)	0.40±0.25	0.40 (0.20-0.51)
EQ visual analogue scale (n = 53)	54.3±18.0	50 (50-70)
Two-minute walk test (meters) (n = 40)	11.8±8.5	10.5 (4.5-16.5)
Timed get-up-and-go test (seconds) (n = 40)	3.5±40.2	60.4 (50.1-94.6)

Table 3. Construct validity of Thai version of the Barthel Index relative to other outcome measurement tools

Outcome measurement tool	Rho (ρ) value	Thai version of the Barthel Index 95% CI	p-value
de Morton Mobility Index	0.629	0.432-0.769	<0.001
EQ-5D-5L utility score	0.452	0.207-0.643	0.001
EQ visual analogue scale	0.313	0.046-0.537	0.023
Two-minute walk test	0.413	0.112-0.644	0.009
Timed get-up-and-go test	-0.311	-0.580-0.020	0.065

Abbreviations: ρ value = Spearman's correlation coefficient; 95% CI = 95% confidence interval
p-value<0.05 indicates statistical significance

Table 4. Reliability of the Thai version of the Barthel Index

Thai version of the Barthel Index	Interobserver reliability	Intraobserver reliability
Feeding	0.538	0.793
Moving from wheelchair to bed and return	0.487	0.827
Personal toilet	0.606	0.797
Getting on and off toilet	0.419	0.824
Self-bathing	0.249	0.653
Ability to walk	0.214	0.975
Stair climbing	0.131	1.000
Dressing	0.469	0.779
Controlling bowels (Bowel control)	0.401	0.906
Controlling bladder (Bladder control)	0.774	0.951
Total score	0.714	0.968

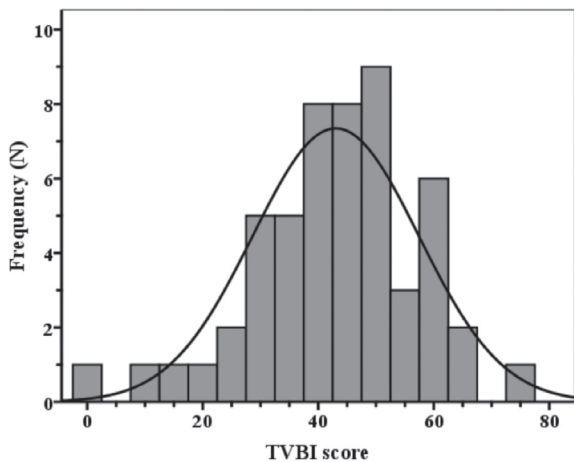


Fig. 1 Histogram showing Thai version of the Barthel Index (TVBI) score distribution.

Reliability of TVBI was presented in Table 4. Interobserver and intraobserver reliabilities of TVBI score were high, with intraclass correlation coefficients of 0.714 and 0.968, respectively. Internal consistency of TVBI, as evaluated by Cronbach's alpha, was 0.694.

Discussion

Health-related quality of life evaluation has become an important aspect of orthopaedic functional outcome assessment. Barthel Index is an outcome measurement tool that evaluates independence in activities of daily living, including patient mobility skills. Barthel Index has been used to assess functional outcomes in many chronic medical conditions⁽⁴⁻⁶⁾. In the current study, Barthel Index was translated into Thai language and was validated for the first time in a

group of patients with femoral neck fracture. The authors consider the distinctiveness of validating TVBI in this group of patients to be the strength of the present study.

The results suggest that TVBI is a reliable and valid indicator for assessing functional disability in patients with femoral neck fracture. Reliability of the instrument was demonstrated by an acceptable Cronbach's alpha score of 0.694, which was very close to reaching the widely recommended level of 0.7^(18,19). Although intraobserver reliability of each item of the TVBI was high (0.653-1.0), interobserver reliability showed a wide range of intraclass correlation coefficients that ranged from 0.131 to 0.774. An item that assesses ability to climb up and down stairs was the only item that failed to meet the minimum recommended item-total correlation of 0.2⁽²⁰⁾. This indicated a lack of relevance regarding this ability in the patient population. Low interobserver reliability of this item can be explained by patient misunderstanding regarding how to perform this task. Some patients think that they can achieve this function if they can climb up and down only a few steps of stairs, while others may perceive that it is essential to be able to climb up and down a flight of stairs in order to achieve this task. Further clarification of this item by perhaps changing the item description to "the ability to walk up and down a flight of stairs" may reduce patient misunderstanding and, thus, improve interobserver reliability for this item.

Validity for the TVBI instrument is supported by high content validity and highly significant correlations with DEMMI, EQ-US, EQ-VAS, and 2MWT. There was a strong correlation between TVBI and DEMMI score, which supported the validity of TVBI as a method for evaluating mobility status in hip

fracture patients. The results were similar to previous investigation, which showed a high correlation between Barthel Index and DEMMI (Spearman's $\rho = 0.6$; 95% CI: 0.46 to 0.71)⁽¹⁰⁾. In comparison to 2MWT, TUG, and DEMMI, an advantage of Barthel Index is that it includes other important dimensions that reflect the patient's overall functional status other than only mobility skill and walking. In addition, Barthel Index is easy to use and has been validated for use in telephone interview⁽²¹⁾ or as a postal self-reported questionnaire⁽²²⁾. The fact that Barthel Index is easy to administer is an important aspect of this instrument, since it allows for a large-scale data collection and it can be used to monitor functional recovery in longitudinal assessment of this condition.

The results from the present study revealed no significant association between TVBI and TUG test. Each of these two tests is likely better suited to the assessment of different clinical features and skills. For the TUG test, patient agility, body habitus, and the ability to quickly establish balance are important factors for accomplishing assessment tasks. As such, this assessment tool may require a higher level of skill, which may not be appropriate for use as an outcome measurement tool for baseline monitoring in femoral neck fracture patients.

There were some limitations that need to be mentioned. First, the postoperative results were obtained within an abbreviated 2-week period after surgical treatment for femoral neck fracture. Validation of TVBI in femoral neck fracture patients should be undertaken in a longitudinal study in order to provide an opportunity to evaluate predictive validity, responsiveness, and sensitivity to change. Second, the presented results can only be generalized to patients with femoral neck fracture. Another defect was that these results cannot be generalized to patients with other types of hip fracture (intertrochanteric and subtrochanteric fractures) and cannot be generalized to patients who do not receive surgical treatment after hip fracture.

Conclusion

There are many advantages to employing a standardized approach to functional assessment across clinical settings and among healthcare professionals. The present study validated the Thai version of the Barthel Index as a method for accurately measuring functional status in patients with femoral neck fracture. TVBI provides good validity and reliability after translation, is without floor or

ceiling effects, and can be measured in all patients during early postoperative treatment after femoral neck fracture.

Disclosure

The present research project was supported by the Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University (Grant Number (IO) R015633014). The authors hereby declare no personal or professional conflicts of interest regarding any aspect of this study.

What is already known on this topic?

Hip fracture is a common osteoporotic fracture most often occurs among elderly patients. Surgery is the mainstay of treatment. However, less than half of patients are able to regain pre-injury functional status. This added vulnerability necessitates the development and use of a specific clinical outcome measurement tool to evaluate their functional status. Barthel Index is a simple and widely used questionnaire for the assessment of functional status in elderly patients. Although Barthel Index was initially developed to assess stroke patients, it was later validated for other conditions, such as spinal cord injury, congestive heart failure, and pneumonia.

What this study adds?

The Barthel Index was translated into Thai language according to accepted linguistic validation protocol. The present study is the first investigation to validate the Thai version of the Barthel Index in hip fracture patients. The Thai version of the Barthel Index provides good validity and reliability and can be used as an outcome measurement tool to assess postoperative functional recovery in elderly patients with femoral neck fracture.

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Potential conflict of interest

None.

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ความถูกต้องและความน่าเชื่อถือของแบบประเมิน Barthel Index ฉบับภาษาไทย สำหรับผู้ป่วยสูงอายุที่มีกระดูกคอสะโพกหัก

ปณัฏฐ์ เลาหประสิทธิ์พร, อรรถกร จารุศรีวรรณ, อาทิส อุณหะนันท์

ภูมิหลัง: กระดูกคอสะโพกหักเป็นกระดูกหักจากโรคกระดูกพรุนที่พบได้บ่อย และจำเป็นต้องมีเครื่องมือวัดผลซึ่งมีความจำเพาะในการประเมินสมรรถภาพการทำงาน คณะผู้วิจัยมีวัตถุประสงค์ที่จะพัฒนาแบบประเมิน Barthel Index เป็นภาษาไทยและประเมินความถูกต้องและความน่าเชื่อถือของแบบประเมิน Barthel Index ฉบับภาษาไทยสำหรับใช้ในการประเมินผู้ป่วยสูงอายุที่มีกระดูกคอสะโพกหัก

วัตถุประสงค์และวิธีการ: แบบประเมิน Barthel Index ได้รับการแปลเป็นภาษาไทยโดยการใช้กระบวนการแปลไปและแปลกลับ ผู้ป่วยที่มีกระดูกคอสะโพกหักจากภัยอันตรายที่ไม่รุนแรงจำนวน 53 รายได้เข้าร่วมแบบไปข้างหน้าและได้รับการประเมินด้วยแบบประเมิน Barthel Index ฉบับภาษาไทย, de Morton Mobility Index (DEMMI), EuroQol-5D (EQ-5D), two-minute walk test (2MWT) และ timed get-up-and-go test (TUG) ภายในระยะเวลา 2 สัปดาห์หลังผ่าตัด ความถูกต้องของแบบประเมิน Barthel Index ฉบับภาษาไทยประเมินได้จากการคำนวณหาดัชนีความสัมพันธ์ระหว่างข้อคำถามกับวัตถุประสงค์และการหาความสัมพันธ์ระหว่างคะแนนของแบบประเมิน Barthel Index ฉบับภาษาไทยกับคะแนนจากเครื่องมือวัดผลอื่น ๆ ความน่าเชื่อถือของแบบประเมิน Barthel Index ฉบับภาษาไทยประเมินได้จากการวัดค่าความน่าเชื่อถือหลังการทดสอบซ้ำ (test-retest reliability) และการหาค่าความสอดคล้องภายใน (internal consistency)

ผลการศึกษา: แบบประเมิน Barthel Index ฉบับภาษาไทยมีความถูกต้องตามเนื้อหาสูงและมีความสัมพันธ์อย่างมากกับแบบประเมิน DEMMI (โดยมีค่า Spearman's rho เท่ากับ 0.629; p -value < 0.001) และมีความสัมพันธ์ระดับปานกลางกับ EQ-5D utility score, EQ-5D visual analog scale และ 2MWT (โดยมีค่า Spearman's rho เท่ากับ 0.452, 0.313 และ 0.413 ตามลำดับ; p -value < 0.05) ความน่าเชื่อถือระหว่างบุคคล (interobserver reliability) และความน่าเชื่อถือภายในบุคคล (intraobserver reliability) ของแบบประเมิน Barthel Index ฉบับภาษาไทยอยู่ในเกณฑ์สูง โดยมีค่า intraclass correlation coefficients เท่ากับ 0.714 และ 0.968 ตามลำดับ ส่วนค่า internal consistency อยู่ในเกณฑ์ที่ยอมรับได้ (Cronbach's alpha เท่ากับ 0.694)

สรุป: แบบประเมิน Barthel Index ฉบับภาษาไทยมีความถูกต้องและความน่าเชื่อถืออยู่ในเกณฑ์ที่ดี โดยที่ไม่มีภาวะ floor และ ceiling effect และยังสามารถใช้ได้กับผู้ป่วยทุกรายในระยะแรกหลังการผ่าตัดรักษาโรคกระดูกคอสะโพกหัก

Appendix ดัชนีบาร์เรล

ฉบับภาษาไทย

ชื่อผู้ป่วย.....

ชื่อผู้ประเมิน.....

วันที่.....

กิจกรรม

คะแนน

การรับประทานอาหาร

- 0 ไม่สามารถทำได้เอง
- 5 ต้องช่วยเหลือบ้างระหว่างการรับประทานอาหาร เช่น ช่วยเหลือในการคัดหน้าอาหาร หรือ ต้องใช้อาหารชนิดพิเศษ
- 10 สามารถทำได้เอง

การอาบน้ำ

- 0 ไม่สามารถทำได้เอง
- 5 สามารถทำได้เอง

การรักษาความสะอาดของร่างกาย

- 0 ต้องช่วยเหลือ
- 5 สามารถทำได้เอง เช่น ล้างหน้า หวีผม แปรงฟัน โกนหนวด

การแต่งตัว

- 0 ไม่สามารถทำได้เอง
- 5 สามารถทำได้บ้างประมาณครึ่งหนึ่งของการแต่งตัวนั้น
- 10 สามารถทำได้เองทั้งหมด (รวมถึงการกลัดกระดุม รูดซิป ผูกเชือกรองเท้า เป็นต้น)

การกลืนอาหาร

- 0 กลืนอาหารไม่ได้เลยหรือต้องสวนอุจจาระเป็นประจำ
- 5 มีอุจจาระเล็ดราดเป็นบางครั้ง
- 10 สามารถควบคุมการขับถ่ายอุจจาระได้

การกลืนปัสสาวะ

- 0 กลืนปัสสาวะไม่ได้เลยหรือต้องใส่สายสวนปัสสาวะตลอดเวลา
- 5 มีปัสสาวะเล็ดราดเป็นบางครั้ง
- 10 สามารถควบคุมการขับถ่ายปัสสาวะได้

การใช้โลส้วมหรือชักโครก

- 0 ต้องช่วยเหลือทุกขั้นตอน
- 5 ต้องช่วยเหลือบ้าง แต่สามารถทำได้เองในบางขั้นตอน
- 10 สามารถทำได้เองทั้งหมด (นั่งและลุกจากโถส้วม หรือชักโครกถอดและใส่เสื้อผ้า เช็ดทำความสะอาด)

การเคลื่อนย้ายตัว (การลุกจากเตียงไปยังเก้าอี้และกลับมามีเตียง)

- 0 ทำเองไม่ได้ และไม่สามารถนั่งทรงตัวได้
- 5 สามารถทำได้โดยต้องมีผู้ดูแล 1-2 คน ช่วยเหลืออย่างมากแต่สามารถนั่งทรงตัวได้
- 10 สามารถทำได้ แต่ต้องอาศัยความช่วยเหลือเล็กน้อยจากผู้ดูแล
- 15 สามารถทำได้เอง

การเดินบนพื้นราบ

- 0 ไม่สามารถเดินบนพื้นราบได้ หรือเดินได้น้อยกว่า 46 เมตร
- 5 ไม่สามารถเดินบนพื้นราบได้ แต่สามารถใช้รถเข็นในการเคลื่อนที่ด้วยตนเองเป็นระยะทางมากกว่า 46 เมตรได้
- 10 สามารถเดินบนพื้นราบได้มากกว่า 46 เมตร โดยมีผู้ดูแลช่วยเหลือ
- 15 สามารถเดินบนพื้นราบได้มากกว่า 46 เมตร โดยอาจใช้หรือไม่ใช้เครื่องช่วยพยุงเดินก็ได้

การขึ้นลงบันได

- 0 ไม่สามารถทำได้เอง
- 5 ต้องอาศัยความช่วยเหลือจากผู้ดูแลหรืออุปกรณ์ช่วยพยุงเดิน
- 10 สามารถทำได้เอง

คะแนนรวม (0-100) :

1. คะแนนดัชนีบาร์เธลควรประเมินจากสิ่งที่ผู้ป่วยทำได้จริงในขณะนั้น ไม่ใช่บันทึกสิ่งที่ผู้ป่วยเคยทำได้
2. จุดประสงค์หลักของดัชนีบาร์เธล คือเพื่อจัดระดับความสามารถในการช่วยเหลือตนเองของผู้ป่วย เช่น ต้องได้รับความช่วยเหลืออย่างมากทางกายหรือได้รับคำแนะนำจากผู้ดูแล หรือต้องได้รับความช่วยเหลือบ้างไม่ว่าจะมีเหตุผลใดๆ ก็ตาม
3. หากกิจกรรมใดที่ผู้ป่วยจะต้องอยู่ภายใต้การควบคุมดูแลโดยผู้อื่น ให้ถือว่าผู้ป่วยรายนั้นไม่สามารถทำกิจกรรมนั้นได้ด้วยตนเอง
4. การประเมินความสามารถในการทำกิจกรรมต่างๆ ของผู้ป่วย ควรประเมินจากข้อมูลที่ดีที่สุดที่มี แม้ว่าโดยทั่วไป ข้อมูลดังกล่าว สามารถหาได้จากการสอบถามผู้ป่วย เพื่อน ญาติ หรือผู้ดูแลผู้ป่วย แต่ข้อมูลจากการสังเกตผู้ป่วย ทำกิจกรรมต่างๆ โดยตรงก็มีความสำคัญมากเช่นกัน อย่างไรก็ตาม ผู้เก็บข้อมูลไม่จำเป็นต้องให้ผู้ป่วยทำกิจกรรมนั้นๆ ให้ดูทุกครั้ง ทั้งนี้ขึ้นกับวิจระณญาณของผู้เก็บข้อมูลเอง
5. โดยทั่วไป ข้อมูลพฤติกรรมที่ผู้ป่วยสามารถทำได้ภายใน 24-48 ชั่วโมง ก่อนการประเมินมีความสำคัญ แต่ในกรณีที่ไม่มีข้อมูลดังกล่าวที่ผู้ป่วยสามารถทำได้ภายใน 24-48 ชั่วโมง ที่ผ่านมา ผู้ประเมินสามารถใช้ข้อมูลที่ผู้ป่วยเคยทำได้ในช่วงระยะเวลาที่นานกว่านั้นได้
6. หากผู้ป่วยสามารถทำกิจกรรมต่างๆ ได้ด้วยตนเองมากกว่าร้อยละ 50 ของการทำกิจกรรมนั้นๆ ให้ประเมินความสามารถในการทำกิจกรรมนั้นๆ ของผู้ป่วยอยู่ในระดับปานกลาง
7. ผู้ป่วยจะใช้เครื่องมือช่วยในการทำกิจกรรมต่างๆ ที่ผู้วิจัยต้องการประเมินหรือไม่ก็ได้

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