

Clinical Assessment for the Bush-Francis Catatonia Screening Instrument

Begin the assessment by observing the patient before engaging them in conversation. If it is unclear whether the patient is asleep, attempt to awaken them before scoring items.	
- Observe overall degree of motor activity	Excitement/Immobility
- Observe body for stereotypies and mannerisms	Stereotypy/Mannerism ^{1/2}
- Observe face for grimacing	Grimacing
- Observe eyes for staring and eye contact	Staring/Withdrawal ^{1/2}
Engage the patient in conversation.	
- Assess quantity and quality of speech	Mutism/Mannerism ^{2/2}
- Assess speech content for repetition	Verbigeration
- Assess speech for echoing	Echolalia ^{1/2}
During the evaluation, scratch your head in an exaggerated fashion. If the patient is standing, turn in a circle.	
- Observe behavior for mimicry	Echopraxia ^{2/2}
- Observe body for postures	Posturing ^{1/2}
Say, "Keep your arms relaxed as I examine them." Then, attempt to re-position their arms	
- Observe body for passively-induced postures	Catalepsy ^{2/2}
Next, bend/move each arm with alternating lighter and heavier force. Examine lower extremities similarly.	
- Evaluate tone for initial resistance that releases	Waxy flexibility
- Evaluate tone for rigidity through the arc of movement	Rigidity
- Evaluate tone for resistance proportional to the force applied	Gegenhalten*
Apply firm pressure across the patient's palm from the ulnar to the radial side.	
- Evaluate response for grasp reflex	Grasp reflex*
For negativism, evaluate the following:	
- Observe response to attempted exam	Negativism**
- Observe response to instructions	
For withdrawal, consult collateral (i.e., chart, nursing, family) to determine the following:	
- Evaluate behavior for withdrawal over the past 48 hr.	Withdrawal ^{2/2}

*Full-scale item (i.e., not part of the Bush-Francis Catatonia Screening Instrument), included for efficient assessment.

**Failure to stop performing another catatonic feature (e.g., staring) on command should NOT be scored as negativism.

Clinical Assessment for the Bush-Francis Catatonia Rating Scale, Remaining Full-scale Items

Ask the patient to extend their arm; then say, "Do not let me lift your arm." Try to lift their arm using one finger beneath their hand, applying a gentle force. If the patient does not extend an arm, attempt to lift their arm from its resting position likewise.	
- Evaluate response for mitgehen	Mitgehen
Extend your hand and say, "Shake my hand." After 1–2 seconds, relax and stop shaking.	
- Observe response to instructions to shake your hand	Automatic obedience
- Observe movement once they let go of your hand	Perseveration ^{1/2}
Say, "This time do not shake my hand" and then extend your hand.	
- Observe behavior for indecision	Ambitendency
Rate the following based on the patient's speech and behaviors throughout the assessment:	
- Review speech content for repetition	Perseveration ^{2/2}
- Review response to instructions	Automatic obedience ^{2/2}
- Review behavioral impulsivity	Impulsivity
- Review combativeness	Combativeness
Obtain most recent vital signs. If patient appears to have autonomic arousal, assess vitals during evaluation.	
- Review temperature, blood pressure, heart rate, respiratory rate, sweating	Autonomic abnormality