

Kiefer Scale

A generally accepted grading system for patients suffering from chronic hydrocephalus has not been established yet. Therefore we designed a new grading system, which focuses on five symptom categories: gait disturbances, mental disorder, incontinence, headache, dizziness. For each category clearly circumscribed degrees of handicaps are defined. For each degree a value between 0-6 points is assigned in concordance to the severity of handicap. To get a generally accepted validation of the obstruction, the assigned values were oriented on the values provided in Germany to evaluate the degree of obstruction for insurances.[nl]In contrast to the established gradings of Stein and Langfitt and the Black Rating Scale our grading allows a more exact acquisition of the clinical presentation of a patient. Our experiences with the grading seemingly indicate also, that it is reliable. Because the grading allows an incorporation of measurable data such as psychometric analysis or gait analysis, our grading is useful as well for everyday's practice as for scientific purpose ¹⁾.

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