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Friedreich's Ataxia Rating Scale (FARS)**

Availability:	The instrument is freely available here: http://www.ataxia-study-group.net/html/about/ataxiascales/fars .
Classification:	Core.
Short Description of Instrument:	<p>The Friedreich Ataxia Rating Scale (FARS) is made up of a measure of ataxia, and activities of daily living subscale and a neurological subscale. This scale also includes the 8m walk at maximum speed (8MW), the 9-hole peg test (9HPT), PATA rate and low-contrast letter acuity.</p> <p>Strengths: FARS scores correlate significantly with functional disability, activities of daily living scores and disease duration. FARS has a large effect size and requires fewer patients for an equivalently powered study.</p> <p>Weaknesses: This scale captures a particular dimension of neurologic function in FA, so as a composite measure, it is not good enough to predict disease status.</p>
Scoring:	<p>The scores from the three subscales are added to generate a total score ranging from 0 to 159, with a higher score indicating a greater level of disability.</p> <p>Functional Staging for Ataxia subscale scoring: 0 = Normal - 6.0 = Confined to wheelchair or bed with total dependency for all ADL. Total disability.</p> <p>ADL subscale scoring: 9 items scored from 0 to 4.</p> <p>Neurological Examination subscale scoring: 5 items scored from 0 to 2 or 0 to 5, depending on the specific parameter.</p>
References:	<p>Key Reference:</p> <p>Subramony SH, May W, Lynch D, et al. Measuring Friedreich ataxia: interrater reliability of a neurologic rating scale. <i>Neurology</i>. 2005;64:1261–2.</p> <p>Other References:</p> <p>Delatycki MB. Evaluating the progression of Friedreich ataxia and its treatment. <i>J Neurol</i>. 2009. 256(Suppl 1):36-41.</p> <p>Fahey MC, Corben L, Collins V, Churchyard AJ, Delatycki MB. How is disease progress in Friedreich’s ataxia best measured? A study of four rating scales. <i>J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatr</i>. 2007 Apr; 78(4):4113-413.</p> <p>Lynch DR, Farmer JM, Tsou AY, Perlman S, Subramony SH, Gomez CM, Ashizawa T, Wilmot GR, Wilson RB, Balcer LJ. Measuring Friedreich ataxia: complementary features of examination and performance measures. <i>Neurology</i>. 2006 Jun 13;66(11):1711-6.</p> <p>Subramony SH, May W, Lynch D, Gomez C, Fischbeck K et al. Measuring Friedreich ataxia: Interrater reliability of a neurologic rating scale. <i>Neurology</i> 2005;64:1261-1262.</p> <p>Lynch DR, Farmer JM, Tsou AY, Perlman S, Subramony SH et al. Measuring Friedreich ataxia: complementary features of examination and performance measures. <i>Neurology</i> 2006; 66:1711-1716.</p>