**International Cooperative Ataxia Rating Scale (ICARS)**

**Availability:** Please visit this website for more information about the instrument: [http://checkyone.bplaced.net/dokus/ICARS.pdf](http://checkyone.bplaced.net/dokus/ICARS.pdf).

**Classification:** Core.

**Short Description of Instrument:**

The International Cooperative Ataxia Rating Scale (ICARS) is a commonly used evaluation and is composed of four clinical sub-scores involving the following: posture and gait, limb coordination, speech and oculomotor function. It was initially designed for longitudinal assessment of pharmacological therapies in patients with cerebellar ataxia.

**Strengths:** ICARS scores strongly correlate with the Ataxia Functional Composite Scale (AFCS).

**Weaknesses:** ICARS scores improve during normal development, until at least 13 years of age; thus, when used in pediatric studies, ICARS values could lead to misinterpretation of longitudinal outcomes, with “improved” scores being mistakenly representative of a therapeutic effect.

**Scoring:**

The ICARS score is the total sum of the sub scores and ranges from 0 to 100, with 100 indicative of the most severely affected outcome.

**References:**

**Key Reference:**


**Other References:**

