
Disabilities of the Arm, Shoulder and Hand

The DASH

This questionnaire asks about your symptoms as well as your ability to perform certain activities. Please answer *every question*, based on your condition in the last week, by selecting the appropriate response. If you did not have the opportunity to perform an activity in the past week, please make your *best estimate* on which response would be the most accurate. It doesn't matter which hand or arm you use to perform the activity; please answer based on your ability regardless of how you perform the task.

Please rate your ability to do the following activities in the last week by selecting the appropriate response.

	No Difficulty	Mild Difficulty	Moderate Difficulty	Severe Difficulty	Unable
	1	2	3	4	5
1. Open a tight or new jar.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Write.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Turn a key.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Prepare a meal.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Push open a heavy door.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Place an object on a shelf above your head.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Do heavy household chores (e.g., wash walls, wash floors).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Garden or do yard work.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. Make a bed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Carry a shopping bag or briefcase.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Carry a heavy object (over 10 lbs).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Change a lightbulb overhead.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Wash or blow dry your hair.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Wash your back.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Put on a pullover sweater.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Use a knife to cut food.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Recreational activities which require little effort (e.g., cardplaying, knitting, etc.).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Recreational activities in which you take some force or impact through your arm, shoulder or hand (e.g., golf, hammering, tennis, etc.).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. Recreational activities in which you move your arm freely (e.g., playing frisbee, badminton, etc.).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. Manage transportation needs (getting from one place to another).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. Sexual activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Not At All	Slightly	Moderately	Quite A Bit	Extremely
	1	2	3	4	5
22. During the past week, to what extent has your arm, shoulder or hand problem interfered with your normal social activities with family, friends, neighbors or groups?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Not Limited	Slightly Limited	Moderately Limited	Very Limited	Unable
	1	2	3	4	5
23. During the past week, were you limited in your work or other regular daily activities as a result of your arm, shoulder or hand problem?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please rate the severity of the following symptoms in the last week.

	None	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Extreme
	1	2	3	4	5
24. Arm, shoulder or hand pain.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25. Arm, shoulder or hand pain when you performed any specific activity.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26. Tingling (pins and needles) in your arm, shoulder or hand.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27. Weakness in your arm, shoulder or hand.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28. Stiffness in your arm, shoulder or hand.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	No Difficulty	Mild Difficulty	Moderate Difficulty	Severe Difficulty	So Much Difficulty That I Can't Sleep
	1	2	3	4	5
29. During the past week, how much difficulty have you had sleeping because of the pain in your arm, shoulder or hand?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
	1	2	3	4	5
30. I feel less capable, less confident or less useful because of my arm, shoulder or hand problem.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Total Score:

A DASH score may not be calculated if there are greater than 3 missing items.

WORK MODULE (OPTIONAL)

The following questions ask about the impact of your arm, shoulder or hand problem on your ability to work (including homemaking if that is your main work role).

Please indicate what your
job/work is: _____

☐ I do not work. (You may skip this section.)

Please select the response that best describes your physical ability in the past week.
Did you have any difficulty: _____

	No Difficulty	Mild Difficulty	Moderate Difficulty	Severe Difficulty	Unable
	1	2	3	4	5
1. using your usual technique for your work?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. doing your usual work because of arm, shoulder or hand pain?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. doing your work as well as you would like?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. spending your usual amount of time doing your work?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Work Module Score:

An optional module score may not be calculated if there are any missing items.

SPORTS/PERFORMING ARTS MODULE (OPTIONAL)

The following questions relate to the impact of your arm, shoulder or hand problem on playing *your musical instrument or sport or both*. If you play more than one sport or instrument (or play both), please answer with respect to that activity which is most important to you.

Please indicate the sport or instrument which is most important to you: _____

☐ I do not play a sport or an instrument. (You may skip this section.)

Please select the response that best describes your physical ability in the past week.
Did you have any difficulty:

	No Difficulty	Mild Difficulty	Moderate Difficulty	Severe Difficulty	Unable
	1	2	3	4	5
1. using your usual technique for playing your instrument or sport?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. playing your musical instrument or sport because of arm, shoulder or hand pain?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. playing your musical instrument or sport as well as you would like?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. spending your usual amount of time practicing or playing your instrument or sport?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Sports/Performing Arts Module Score:

An optional module score may not be calculated if there are any missing items.

Interpretation

The score is represented on a 0-100 scale where 100 represents the greatest disability and 0 represents the least disability.

Minimally Clinically Important Difference (MCID)

Minimal Detectable Change (MDC)

Adults with musculoskeletal conditions of the upper extremity:

MCID = 10.2; MDC = 12.2.

Intercollegiate Athletes: MDC = 10.0.

These are published values for specific populations and provide guidance if the patient does not have the listed condition.

Selected References

1. Schmitt JS, Di Fabio RP. Reliable change and minimum important difference (MID) proportions facilitated group responsiveness comparisons using individual threshold criteria. *J Clin Epidemiol.* 2004;57(10):1008-1018. doi:10.1016/j.jclinepi.2004.02.007
 2. Hsu JE, Nacke E, Park MJ, et al. The Disabilities of the Arm, Shoulder, and Hand questionnaire in intercollegiate athletes: validity limited by ceiling effect. *J Shoulder Elbow Surg.* 2010;19(3):349-354. doi:10.1016/j.jse.2009.11.006
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