

PATIENT NAME _____

DATE _____

DOCTOR'S NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

YALE-BROWN OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE SCALE (Y-BOCS)*

Questions 1 to 5 are about your obsessive thoughts.

Obsessions are unwanted ideas, images or impulses that intrude on thinking against your wishes and efforts to resist them. They usually involve themes of harm, risk and danger. Common obsessions are excessive fears of contamination; recurring doubts about danger; extreme concern with order, symmetry, or exactness; fear of losing important things.

Please answer each question by writing the appropriate number in the box next to it.

1. TIME OCCUPIED BY OBSESSIVE THOUGHTS

Q. How much of your time is occupied by obsessive thoughts?

- 0 = None.
- 1 = Less than 1 hr/day or occasional occurrence.
- 2 = 1 to 3 hrs/day or frequent.
- 3 = Greater than 3 and up to 8 hrs/day or very frequent occurrence.
- 4 = Greater than 8 hrs/day or nearly constant occurrence.

2. INTERFERENCE DUE TO OBSESSIVE THOUGHTS

Q. How much do your obsessive thoughts interfere with your work, school, social, or other important role functioning? Is there anything that you don't do because of them?

- 0 = None.
- 1 = Slight interference with social or other activities, but overall performance not impaired.
- 2 = Definite interference with social or occupational performance, but still manageable.
- 3 = Causes substantial impairment in social or occupational performance.
- 4 = Incapacitating.

3. DISTRESS ASSOCIATED WITH OBSESSIVE THOUGHTS

Q. How much distress do your obsessive thoughts cause you?

- 0 = None.
- 1 = Not too disturbing.
- 2 = Disturbing, but still manageable.
- 3 = Very disturbing.
- 4 = Near constant and disabling distress.

4. RESISTANCE AGAINST OBSESSIONS

Q. How much of an effort do you make to resist the obsessive thoughts? How often do you try to disregard or turn your attention away from these thoughts as they enter your mind?

- 0 = Try to resist all the time.
- 1 = Try to resist most of the time.
- 2 = Make some effort to resist.
- 3 = Yield to all obsessions without attempting to control them, but with some reluctance.
- 4 = Completely and willingly yield to all obsessions.

5. DEGREE OF CONTROL OVER OBSESSIVE THOUGHTS

Q. How much control do you have over your obsessive thoughts? How successful are you in stopping or diverting your obsessive thinking? Can you dismiss them?

- 0 = Complete control.
- 1 = Usually able to stop or divert obsessions with some effort and concentration.
- 2 = Sometimes able to stop or divert obsessions.
- 3 = Rarely successful in stopping or dismissing obsessions, can only divert attention with difficulty.
- 4 = Obsessions are completely involuntary, rarely able to even momentarily alter obsessive thinking.

*This adaptation of the Y-BOCS is abridged from the original version with permission from Wayne Goodman. For additional information on the Y-BOCS, please contact Dr. Wayne Goodman at the University of Florida, College of Medicine, Gainesville, Florida 32610. The original version was published by: Goodman WK, Price LH, Rasmussen SA, et al. The Yale-Brown Obsessive Compulsive Scale I: Development, use, and reliability. *Arch Gen Psychiatry*. 1989;46:1006-1011.

The next several questions are about your compulsive behaviors.

Compulsions are urges that people have to do something to lessen feelings of anxiety or other discomfort. Often they do repetitive, purposeful, intentional behaviors called rituals. The behavior itself may seem appropriate but it becomes a ritual when done to excess. Washing, checking, repeating, straightening, hoarding and many other behaviors can be rituals. Some rituals are mental. For example thinking or saying things over and over under your breath.

6. TIME SPENT PERFORMING COMPULSIVE BEHAVIORS

Q. How much time do you spend performing compulsive behaviors? How much longer than most people does it take to complete routine activities because of your rituals? How frequently do you do rituals?

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- 0 = None.
- 1 = Less than 1 hr/day, or occasional performance of compulsive behaviors.
- 2 = From 1 to 3 hrs/day, or frequent performance of compulsive behaviors.
- 3 = More than 3 and up to 8 hrs/day, or very frequent performance of compulsive behaviors.
- 4 = More than 8 hrs/day, or near constant performance of compulsive behaviors (too numerous to count).

7. INTERFERENCE DUE TO COMPULSIVE BEHAVIORS

Q. How much do your compulsive behaviors interfere with your work, school, social, or other important role functioning? Is there anything that you don't do because of the compulsions?

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- 0 = None.
- 1 = Slight interference with social or other activities, but overall performance not impaired.
- 2 = Definite interference with social or occupational performance, but still manageable.
- 3 = Causes substantial impairment in social or occupational performance.
- 4 = Incapacitating.

8. DISTRESS ASSOCIATED WITH COMPULSIVE BEHAVIOR

Q. How would you feel if prevented from performing your compulsion(s)? How anxious would you become?

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- 0 = None.
- 1 = Only slightly anxious if compulsions prevented.
- 2 = Anxiety would mount but remain manageable if compulsions prevented.
- 3 = Prominent and very disturbing increase in anxiety if compulsions interrupted.
- 4 = Incapacitating anxiety from any intervention aimed at modifying activity.

9. RESISTANCE AGAINST COMPULSIONS

Q. How much of an effort do you make to resist the compulsions?

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- 0 = Always try to resist.
- 1 = Try to resist most of the time.
- 2 = Make some effort to resist.
- 3 = Yield to almost all compulsions without attempting to control them, but with some reluctance.
- 4 = Completely and willingly yield to all compulsions.

10. DEGREE OF CONTROL OVER COMPULSIVE BEHAVIOR

Q. How strong is the drive to perform the compulsive behavior? How much control do you have over the compulsions?

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- 0 = Complete control.
- 1 = Pressure to perform the behavior but usually able to exercise voluntary control over it.
- 2 = Strong pressure to perform behavior, can control it only with difficulty.
- 3 = Very strong drive to perform behavior, must be carried to completion, can only delay with difficulty.
- 4 = Drive to perform behavior experienced as completely involuntary and overpowering, rarely able to even momentarily delay activity.

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Total Score