Abnormal Involuntary Movement Scale (AIMS)

DECERA CLINICAL Education

Examination Procedure

- Either before or after, observe the patient unobtrusively at rest (eg, in the waiting room) if possible
- Use a hard, firm chair without arms

1	Ask the patient whether there is anything in his or her mouth (such as gum or candy) and, if so, to remove it.
2	Ask about the "current" condition of the patient's teeth. Ask if he or she wears dentures. Ask whether teeth or dentures bother the patient "now."
3	Ask whether the patient notices any movements in his or her mouth, face, hands, or feet. If yes, ask the patient to describe them and to indicate to what extent they "currently" bother the patient or interfere with activities.
4	Have the patient sit in the chair with hands on knees, legs slightly apart, and feet flat on floor. (Look at the entire body for movements while the patient is in this position.)
5	Ask the patient to sit with hands hanging unsupported: if male, between his legs; if female and wearing a dress, hanging over her knees. (Observe hands and other body areas.)
6	Ask the patient to open his or her mouth. (Observe the tongue at rest within the mouth.) Do this twice.
7	Ask the patient to protrude his or her tongue. (Observe abnormalities of tongue movement.) Do this twice.
8	Ask the patient to tap his or her thumb with each finger as rapidly as possible for 10-15 seconds, first with the right hand, then with the left hand. (Observe facial and leg movements.) [± activated]
9	Flex and extend the patient's left and right arms, one at a time.
10	Ask the patient to stand up. (Observe the patient in profile. Observe all body areas again, hips included.)
11	Ask the patient to extend both arms out in front, palms down. (Observe trunk, legs, and mouth.) [activated]
12	Have the patient walk a few paces, turn, and walk back to the chair. (Observe hands and gait.) Do this twice. [activated]

Scoring and Interpretation

Movement Ratings*		0 None, normal	1 Minimal†	2 Mild	3 Moderate	4 Severe
Facial and oral movements	1. Muscles of facial expression	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	2. Lips and perioral area	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	3. Jaw	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	4. Tongue	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Extremity movements	5. Upper (arms, wrists, hands, fingers)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	6. Lower (legs, knees, ankles, toes)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Trunk movements	7. Neck, shoulders, hips	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Global judgments	8. Severity of abnormal movements overall	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	9. Incapacitation due to abnormal movements	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
	10. Patient awareness of abnormal movements	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Dental status	11. Current problems with teeth/dentures?		Yes ☐		No ☐	
	12. Are dentures usually worn?		Yes ☐		No ☐	

*May rate movements that occur upon activation one less than those observed spontaneously. †May be extreme normal.

Total score (sum of items 1-7) =

Severity score (item 8: highest individual score from items 1-7) =

Impact (items 9-10) notes:

Guy. ECDEU assessment manual for psychopharmacology. 1976.