

Pathological Laughing and Crying Scale (PLACS)

Ratings are based on clinical assessment. Initial probe questions are given for each item. However, further questions may be used for clarification. Write the number that most accurately reflects clinical symptoms according to the ratings below in the spaces provided. Note that an alternate rating scale is provided for questions 4 and 12 below.

Rarely or not at all	Occasionally	Quite often	Frequently
0	1	2	3

1. Have you recently experienced sudden episodes of laughter?
__ Rate the frequency of the episodes during the past 2 weeks

2. Have you recently experienced sudden episodes of crying?
__ Rate the frequency of the episodes during the past 2 weeks

If you have experienced sudden episodes of laughter, please answer the following (questions 3 through 10), otherwise skip to question 11.

3. Have these episodes occurred without any cause in your surroundings?
__ Rate the frequency with which the episodes have occurred without external stimuli in the past 2 weeks

4. Have these episodes lasted for a long period?
__ Rate the average duration of the episodes during the past two weeks.
0 Very brief
1 Short (a few seconds)
2 Moderate (less than 30 seconds)
3 Prolonged (more than 30 seconds)

5. Have these episodes been uncontrollable by you?
__ Rate the ability to control the episodes during the past 2 weeks

6. Have these episodes occurred as a result of feelings of happiness?
__ Rate the frequency with which the episodes occurred as a result of happiness in the past 2 weeks

7. Have these episodes occurred in excess of feelings of happiness?
__ Rate the frequency with which the episodes have been disproportionate to the emotional state in the past 2 weeks

8. Have these episodes of laughter occurred with feelings of sadness?
__ Rate the frequency of association between the episode and the paradoxical emotion in the past 2 weeks. The sadness must precede or accompany the episode and not be a reaction to it

9. Have these episodes occurred with any emotions other than happiness or sadness, such as nervousness, anger, fear, etc?

— Rate the frequency of association between the episodes and emotions in the past 2 weeks. The emotion must precede or accompany the episode and not be a reaction to it

10. Have these episodes caused you any distress or social embarrassment?

— Rate the degree of distress or embarrassment caused by the episodes in the past 2 weeks

If you have experienced sudden episodes of crying, please answer the following (questions 11 through 18).

11. Have these episodes occurred without any cause in your surroundings?

— Rate the frequency with which the episodes have occurred without external stimuli in the past 2 weeks

12. Have these episodes lasted for a long period?

— Rate the average duration of the episodes during the past 2 weeks

0 Very brief

1 Short (a few seconds)

2 Moderate (less than 30 seconds)

3 Prolonged (more than 30 seconds)

13. Have these episodes been uncontrollable by you?

— Rate the ability to control the episodes during the past 2 weeks

14. Have these episodes occurred as a result of feelings of sadness?

— Rate the frequency with which the episodes occurred as a result of sadness in the past 2 weeks. The sadness must precede or accompany the crying and not be a reaction to it

15. Have these episodes occurred in excess of feelings of sadness?

— Rate the frequency with which the episodes have been disproportionate to the emotional state in the past 2 weeks

16. Have these episodes of crying occurred with feelings of happiness?

— Rate the frequency of association between the episode and the paradoxical emotion in the past 2 weeks. The happiness must precede or accompany the crying

17. Have these episodes occurred with any emotions other than sadness or happiness, such as nervousness, anger, fear, etc?

— Rate the frequency of association between the episodes and emotions in the past 2 weeks. The emotion must precede or accompany the episode and not be a reaction to it

18. Have these episodes caused you any distress or social embarrassment?

— Rate the degree of distress or embarrassment caused by the episodes in the past 2 weeks

Source: Robinson RG, Parikh RM, Lipsey JR, et al. Pathological laughing and crying following stroke: validation of a measurement scale and a double-blind treatment study. *Am J Psychiatry*. 1993;150:286-293.