

NIHSS

for the aphasic patient – cont'd

7. Limb Ataxia

- If the patient doesn't understand, move the limb passively to show the patient what is expected.
- Score 0 – If the patient CANNOT understand the task

8. Sensory

- If the patient can SHAKE/NOD HEAD, ask “Can you feel the pin prick?”, “Is it same on both sides?” or “Is it different on each side?”
- Patients with aphasia often score 0 (as it may be difficult to clearly demonstrate severe/total sensory loss)

9. Language

- Patients can write down responses
- Score 1 – Patient is able to ‘get their point across’ in the presence of obvious loss of fluency/comprehension
- Score 2 – Communication is limited. You need to guess what the patient is trying to say
- Score 3 – No usable speech, no comprehension

10. Dysarthria

- Have patient repeat listed words after you read them out loud
- During the test, listen for the presence of slurred speech
- Score 2 – If no intelligible speech is produced or patient is mute

11. Extinction

- Touch upper / lower limbs and ask patient to point to LEFT, RIGHT or BOTH
- This can also be done with visual field testing. Asking patient to point to LEFT, RIGHT, or BOTH
- Score 0 – If the patient appears to attend to both sides