

The Articular Index of Doyle et al for Osteoarthritis

Overview:

The articular index of Doyle et al is an assessment of the principal joints affected by osteoarthritis. This can be used to evaluate the severity of osteoarthritis in a patient and to monitor the effect of therapeutic interventions over time.

total number of joint units evaluated: 22

Joint(s)	Testing Method	Number of Units
distal interphalangeal (IP) joints for fingers 2-5 both hands scored individually	pressure	8
proximal interphalangeal (IP) joints for fingers 2-5 both hands scored individually	pressure	8
metacarpophalangeal (MP) joints for fingers 2-5 both hands as a group	pressure	2
interphalangeal (IP) joint of thumbs	pressure	2
metacarpophalangeal (MP) joint of thumbs	pressure	2
first carpometacarpal joint	pressure	2
wrist	pressure	2
elbow	pressure	2
shoulder	pressure	2
acromioclavicular joints together as a pair	pressure	1
sternoclavicular joints together as a pair	pressure	1
cervical spine	movement	1
lumbar spine	movement	1
hips	movement	2
knees	pressure	2
ankles	movement	2
talocalcaneal	movement	2
midtarsal	movement	2
metatarsophalangeal (MTP) joint great toe	pressure	2
metatarsophalangeal (MTP) joints toes 2-5 as a group	pressure	2

Grading Test Findings	Points
-----------------------	--------

no tenderness	0
patient complains of pain	1
patient complains of pain and winces	2
patient complains of pain winces and withdrew joint	3

total index =

= SUM(points for all 48 units)

Interpretation:

- minimum index: 0
- maximum index: 144
- The higher the score the worse the osteoarthritis.
 - A decrease in the index indicates improvement while an increase indicates worsening of the osteoarthritis.

References:

Doyle DV Dieppe PA et al. An articular index for the assessment of osteoarthritis. Ann Rheum Dis. 1981; 40: 75-78.