

Clinical Notes

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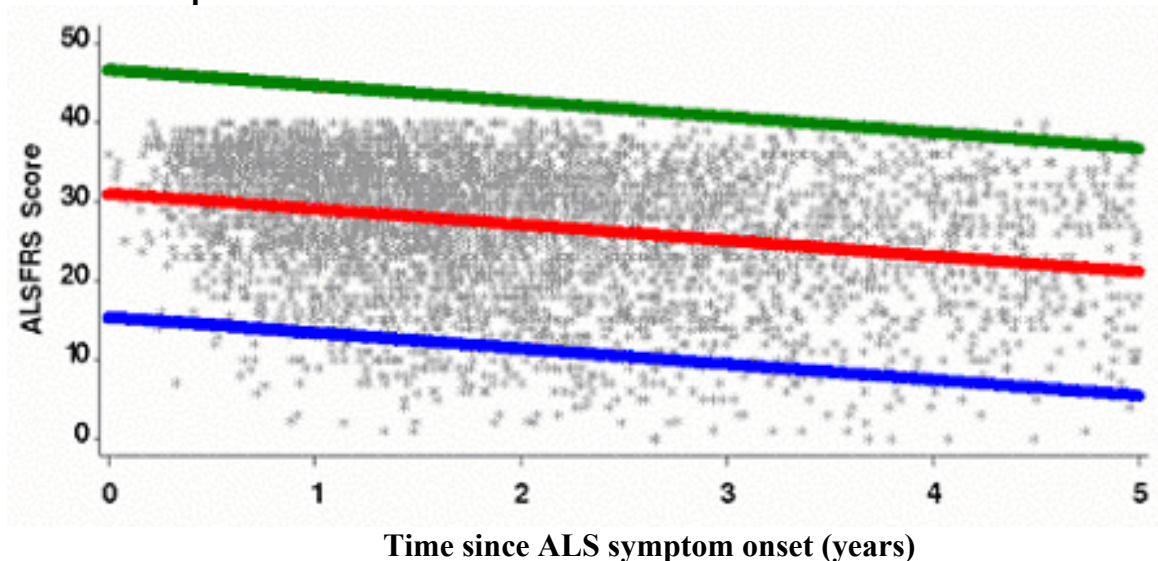
Introducing the Online ALS Functional Rating Scale

The ALS Functional Rating Scale (ALSFRS) was developed by Cederbaum, et al in 1996 (1). This 10-questions, "0 worst to 40 best", scale has become a well validated and widely used tool for the assessment of severity of ALS in clinical trials and in routine patient care by a growing number of neurologists. A revised scale the ALSFRS-R (12-questions "0 worst to 48 best") was introduced in 1999 to collect additional information about breathing and sleeping problems (2).

The ALS Patient Care Database (ALS CARE) adopted the ALSFRS as one of the standard assessments in the Health Professional Data collection form. We are pleased to announce the creation of a scoring tool for the ALSFRS, which is available to patients and physicians on the ALS CARE Internet site (www.outcomes.org). It is exciting to begin to share the findings of ALS CARE with ALS patients and physicians.

The ALS CARE Scientific Advisory Committee is considering adding additional tools to our website and invites your comments and suggestions.

Prediction of ALSFRS Score versus Duration of ALS Symptoms: Based on ALSFRS scores from patients enrolled in the ALS CARE Database.



References:

1. Cedarbaum J. Archives of Neurology. 1996 Feb;53(2):141-7.
2. Cedarbaum J. Neurol Sci. 1999 Oct 31;169(1-2):13-21.