

The Mental Status Exam

Jonathan Bolton MD Center
for Rural and Community
Behavioral Health
University of New Mexico

Attitude

- To the interview
- To the interviewer
 - Eg cooperative, hostile, facetious, seductive, guarded, impatient, child-like,...
 - Politeness: obsequious to hostile

Attentiveness and Attitude

Attentiveness

- Attention/Distractibility
- Internal preoccupation
- Ignoring

Attitude

- Rapport
- Cooperation

Movements

- Voluntary/Involuntary
- Increased/Decreased
- Descriptions
- Rhythmic
- Repetitive
- Random

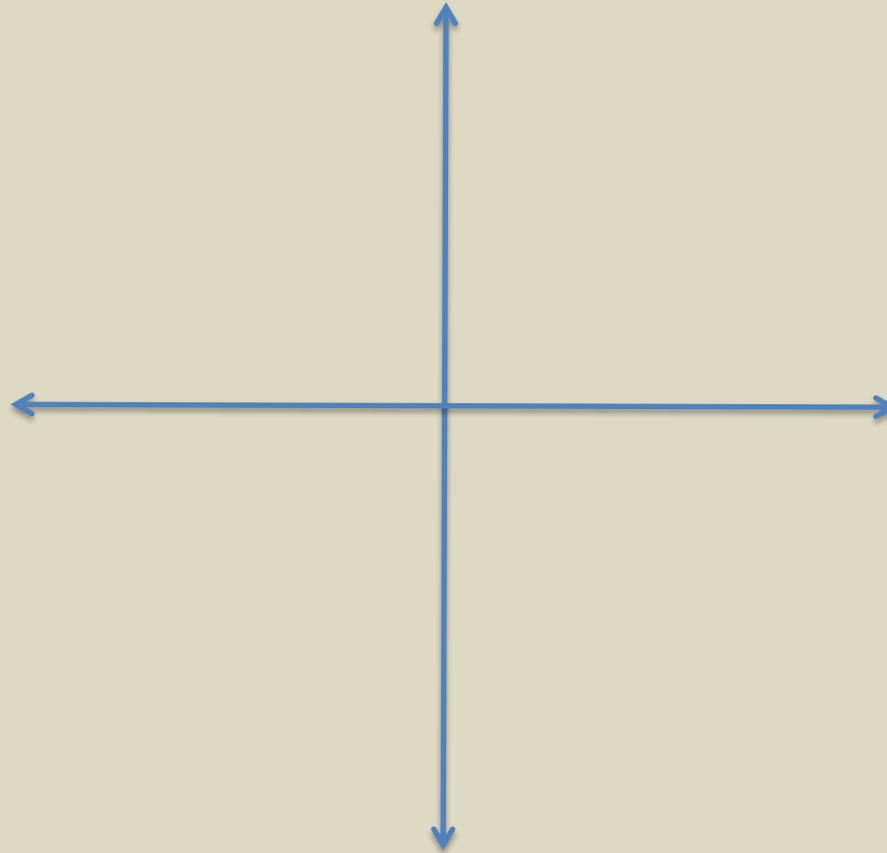
Movements

Increased

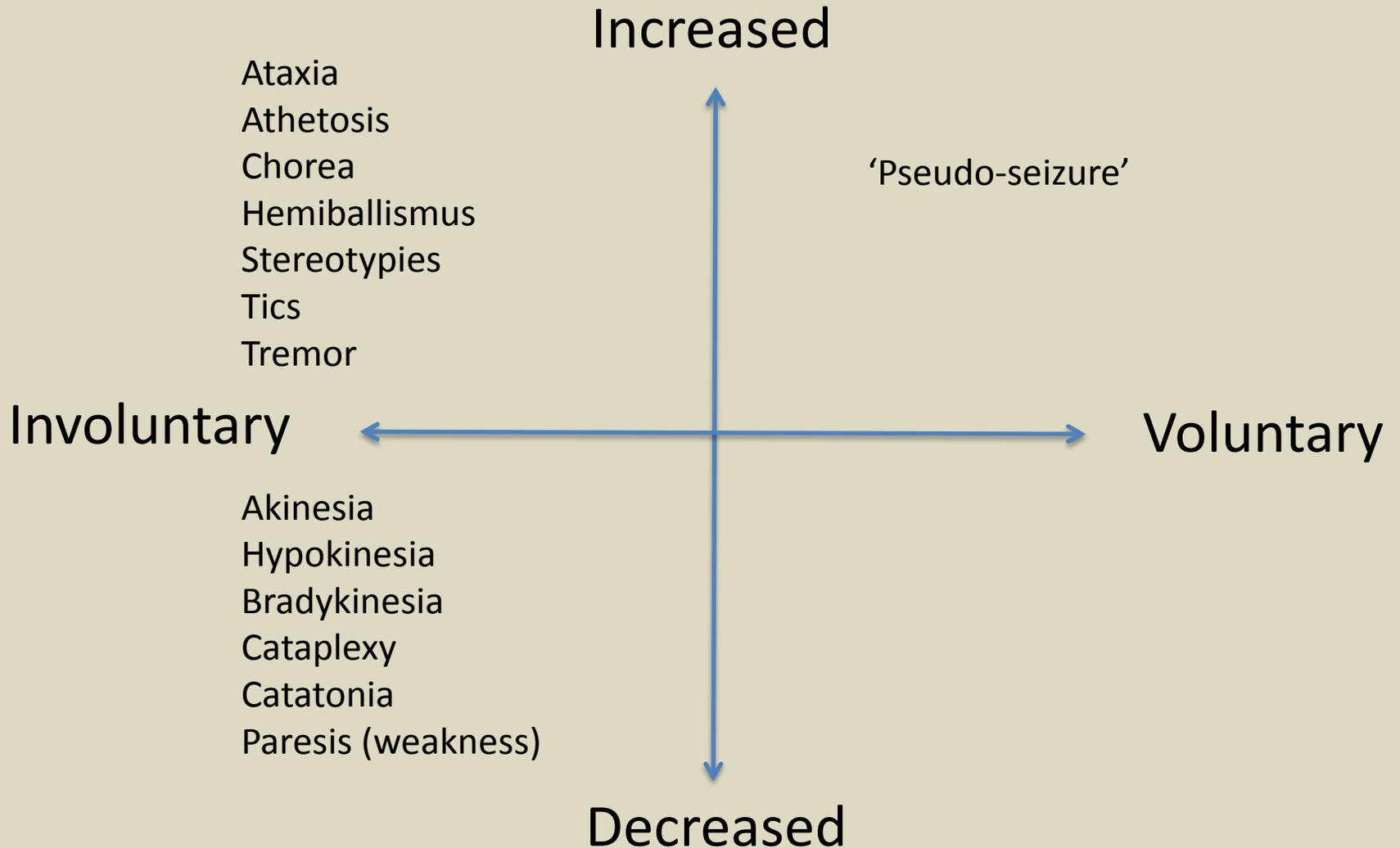
Involuntary

Voluntary

Decreased



Movements



Increased Movement (Hyperkinetic)

- **Ataxia**—change in balance/coordination
- **Athetosis**—writhing, slow, continuous, smooth
- **Chorea**—random, brisk, ‘jerky’
- **Hemiballismus**—rapid, nonrhythmic
- **Stereotypies**—repetitive, rhythmic
- **Tics**—repetitive, intermittent; motor +/- vocal
- **Tremor**—rhythmic, oscillations around an axis

Dystonia

- Acute
 - Torticollis
 - Opisthotonos
 - Oculogyric crisis
- Chronic
 - Tardive Dystonia
 - Blepharospasm

Decreased Movement (Hypokinetic)

- **Akinesia**—inability to initiate movement
- **Hypokinesia**—slow initiation
- **Bradykinesia**—slow execution, normal movement
- **Cataplexy**—sudden, involuntary loss of motor tone
- **Catatonia**—stiffness, waxy flexibility
- **Paresis**--weakness

Examinations

- Rigidity
- Abnormal Involuntary Movement Scale (AIMS)

Abnormal Involuntary Movements Scale (AIMS)

ABNORMAL INVOLUNTARY MOVEMENT SCALE (AIMS)

Patient's Name (Please print) _____ Patient's ID information _____

Examiner's Name _____

CURRENT MEDICATIONS AND TOTAL MG/DAY

Medication #1 _____ Total mg/Day _____ Medication #2 _____ Total mg/Day _____

INSTRUCTIONS: COMPLETE THE EXAMINATION PROCEDURE BEFORE ENTERING THESE RATINGS.

Facial and Oral Movements

1. Muscles of Facial Expression eg. movements of forehead, eyebrows, periorbital area, cheeks; include frowning, blinking, smiling, grimacing
2. Lips and Perioral Area eg. puckering, pouting, smacking
3. Jaw eg. biting, clenching, chewing, mouth opening, lateral movement
4. Tongue
Rate only increases in movement both in and out of mouth, NOT inability to sustain movement

None - normal	Minimal (may be extreme normal)	Mild	Moderate	Severe
<input type="checkbox"/> ₀	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
<input type="checkbox"/> ₀	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
<input type="checkbox"/> ₀	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
<input type="checkbox"/> ₀	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄

Extremity Movements

5. Upper (arms, wrists, hands, fingers)
Include choreic movements (ie, rapid, objectively purposeless, irregular, spontaneous); athetoid movements (ie, slow, irregular, complex, serpentine). DO NOT include tremor (ie, repetitive, regular, rhythmic).
6. Lower (legs, knees, ankles, toes)
eg. lateral knee movement, foot tapping, heel dropping, foot squirming, inversion and eversion of foot

<input type="checkbox"/> ₀	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
<input type="checkbox"/> ₀	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄

Trunk Movements

7. Neck, shoulders, hips
eg. rocking, twisting, squirming, pelvic gyrations

<input type="checkbox"/> ₀	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
---------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	---------------------------------------

SCORING:

- Score the highest amplitude or frequency in a movement on the 0-4 scale, not the average;
- Score Activated Movements the same way; do not lower those numbers as was proposed at one time;
- A POSITIVE AIMS EXAMINATION IS A SCORE OF 2 IN TWO OR MORE MOVEMENTS or a SCORE OF 3 OR 4 IN A SINGLE MOVEMENT
- Do not sum the scores: e.g. a patient who has scores 1 in four movements DOES NOT have a positive AIMS score of 4.

Overall Severity

8. Severity of abnormal movements
9. Incapacitation due to abnormal movements

<input type="checkbox"/> ₀	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
<input type="checkbox"/> ₀	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄

10. Patient's awareness of abnormal movements (rate only patient's report)

No awareness	Aware, no distress	Aware, mild distress	Aware, moderate distress	Aware, severe distress
<input type="checkbox"/> ₀	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄

Dental Status

11. Current problems with teeth and/or dentures?
12. Does patient usually wear dentures?

Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments: _____

Examiner's Signature _____ Next Exam Date _____

Speech and Language--Dimensions

- Expression
 - Spoken
 - Written
- Comprehension
- Repetition
- Naming
- Writing
- Reading

Speech--Expression

- Amount
- Rate
- Volume
- Rhythm/Prosody
- Fluency
- Form

Speech--Expression

- Amount
 - Mutism
 - Pressured
 - Loquacious
 - Spontaneous
- Rate
 - Speed
 - Latency
- Volume

Speech--Expression

- Rhythm/Prosody
- Fluency
 - ‘No ifs, ands, or buts’
 - Non-fluent: stuttering, cluttering, scanning speech
- Form
 - Articulation
 - Paraphasias
 - Semantic
 - Literal
 - Neologisms

Speech/Language

- Comprehension
 - One-, Two-, Three-step command
- Repetition
 - One word; phrases
 - Perseveration: repeats a task even after it is no longer requested
 - Verbigeration: repeats words not part of conversation
 - Palilalia: repeats own words

Speech/Language

- Naming
 - Confrontational naming
- Writing
 - Write a sentence
 - Size and form of writing
- Reading

Mood and Affect

Mood

- Predominant internal feeling state
- Subjective report
- Observer descriptions: euthymic, dysphoric, euphoric, irritable, anxious

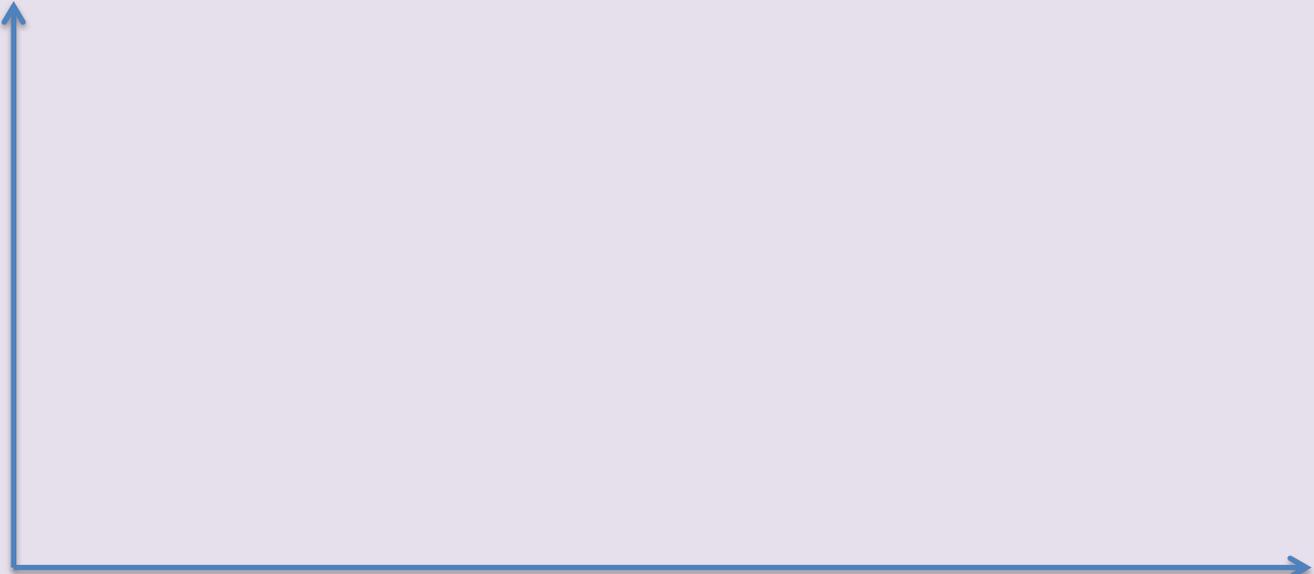
Mood and Affect

Affect

- External and dynamic manifestations of a person's emotional state

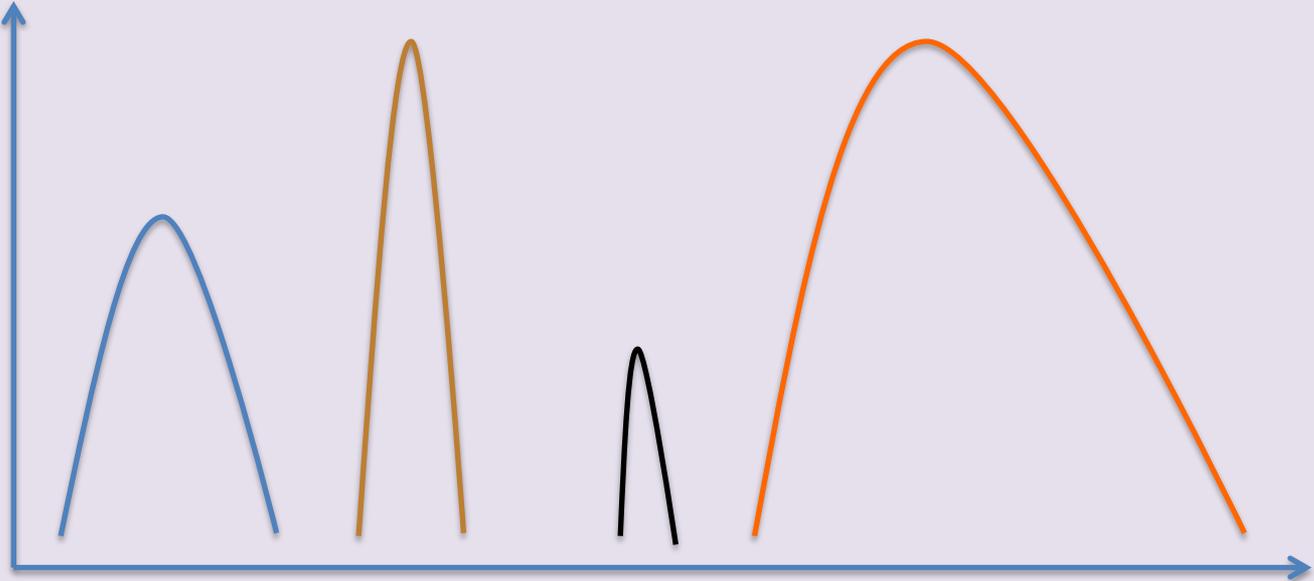
- Dimensions
 - Appropriateness
 - Range
 - Intensity
 - Reactivity

Intensity



Range

Intensity



Range

Euthymic

Manic

Depressed

Mixed Mania