



Adhesive Arachnoiditis
Revised-Bulletin 11
July, 2019

ARACHNOIDITIS CATEGORIZATION

Each AA patient needs to determine which category they best fit. Persons with moderate, severe, or catastrophic will require an aggressive 3-component treatment program.

MILD

	A	Full range of motion
	B	No back indentation or contracture
	C	Normal inflammatory markers
	D	No bladder impairment
	E	No MRI evidence of spinal fluid leakage or obstruction
	F	No hormone abnormalities
	G	Can sit and stand in one position for 10 minutes
	H	Intermittent pain

MODERATE

	A	Full range of motion and walks without assistance
	B	Mild to zero lower extremity weakness
	C	Normal inflammatory markers
	D	Some bladder hesitancy, urgency, dripping
	E	No MRI or physical evidence of spinal fluid leakage
	F	Mild constant pain but no need for sleeping medication
	G	Can sit and stand in one position for 10 minutes

SEVERE

	A	Some range of motion impairment and needs assistance (cane or other) to ambulate
	B	Weakness in lower extremities with neurologic symptoms (eg burning feet, bugs crawling, jerking or other)
	C	Elevated inflammatory markers and/or hormone abnormalities
	D	Bladder impairment symptoms of hesitancy, urgency, or incontinence
	E	MRI and/or physical evidence of chronic spinal fluid leakage and/or flow obstruction
	F	Constant pain that impairs sleep
	G	Can't sit and stand in one position for 10 minutes

CATASTROPHIC

	A	Requires assistance with activities of daily living (dressing, toiletry, eating, etc)
	B	Significant lower extremity impairment (eg walker, wheelchair, braces)
	C	Bladder impairment of hesitancy, urgency, or incontinence
	D	Mental deficiencies such as memory loss or reading ability
	E	MRI and physical evidence of chronic spinal fluid obstruction and leakage
	F	Elevated inflammatory markers and hormone abnormalities
	G	Constant pain that impairs sleep
	H	Can't sit or stand in one position for 10 minutes