

AMS Diagnosing Menopause: Symptom Score Sheet

The Modified Greene Scale⁶ (see below) can be completed together with the woman, or she can do it herself in the waiting room. The woman judges the severity of her own symptoms and records the score - 1 for mild, 2 for moderate, 3 for severe and 0 if she does not have that particular symptom.

A score of 15 or over usually indicates oestrogen deficiency that is intrusive enough to require treatment, but this is only a guide. Women are very variable in their tolerance of discomfort, often tolerating quite severe symptoms before they will even consider taking MHT. Scores of 20-50 are common in symptomatic women, and with adequate treatment tailored to the individual, the score will reduce to 10 or under in 3-6 months.

Using the symptom score sheet at subsequent follow-up visits is a useful method of judging whether adequate oestrogen is being taken to alleviate symptoms. Generally, there is a halving of the symptom score after 2-3 months on MHT and if the woman is still experiencing a lot of symptoms, she may require a dose increase. If symptoms persist, changing from the oral route to transdermal may help if the problem is oestrogen malabsorption.

SYMPTOM SCORE (Modified Greene Scale)¹

	Score before MHT	3 months after starting MHT	6 months after starting MHT
Hot flushes			
Light headed feelings			
Headaches			
Irritability			
Depression			
Unloved feelings			
Anxiety			
Mood changes			
Sleeplessness			
Unusual tiredness			
Backache			
Joint pains			
Muscle pains			
New facial hair			
Dry skin			
Crawling feelings under the skin			
Less sexual feelings			
Dry vagina			
Uncomfortable intercourse			
Urinary frequency			
TOTAL			

SEVERITY OF PROBLEM IS SCORED AS FOLLOWS

SCORE: None =0; Mild =1; Moderate =2; Severe =3

NB. The symptoms are grouped into 4 categories, vasomotor, psychological, locomotor and urogenital. If one group does not respond to MHT, look for other causes and specific treatments for that group.

Not all of the symptoms listed are necessarily oestrogen deficiency symptoms.

References

- Greene JG. Constructing a standard climacteric standard. *Maturitas* 1998;29:25-31