

30 second Chair Stand Test (30sCST)

Measures lower limb function, dynamic balance & strength²

Phases

Preop¹
Post-acute
Active living



ICF

Body function
Activity



Time

~2 minutes to
complete and score



Equipment

Straight back chair, 43-46 cm seat height /no arm rests
Stopwatch/timer
Note: Same chair needs to be used for re-testing



Quality



Validity

Construct: TKA: Moderate correlation with stair climb test ($r=0.59$).³ Community-dwelling older adults: Strong correlations with gait speed ($r=0.52$), endurance ($r=0.56$) and dynamic balance ($r= -0.50$).⁴

Convergent: Awaiting TKA/THA: moderately high correlations with fast-paced 50-ft timed walk ($r_s= -0.64$ (95% CI-0.75, -0.49) & WOMAC function subscale ($r_s=-0.62$ (95% CI -0.74, -0.47)).⁵



Reliability

Test-retest: Knee OA: Baseline ICC=0.92 & 6-month follow-up ICC=0.94¹; Advanced hip/knee OA: ICC = 0.95³

Interrater: Awaiting THA/TKA: ICC ranged from 0.93-0.98⁶; Hip OA: ICC=0.81⁷



Responsiveness

Awaiting TKA/THA: SRM: 0.84⁵

Hip OA: After a 9-wk physiotherapy program, scores improved from 10.1 to 10.9.⁷ More responsive than TUG or 40m self-paced walk test after a 9-wk physiotherapy program.⁷ Knee OA: Acceptable responsiveness after a 4-wk physiotherapy program, AUC = 0.87 (95% CI 0.78–0.96).⁸



Floor/ceiling effects

Knee OA: No floor effects noted as only 1.1-10.8% of participants could not complete test.¹



Feasibility

Minimum equipment & spaced required, quick to perform & can be administered virtually.



Instructions

Instruct patients to sit in the middle of chair with arms crossed at chest & feet flat on floor, shoulder width apart. On “Go,” ask them rise to a full standing position, then sit back down again, repeatedly for 30 seconds. See 'Relevant Links' for detailed instructions.

Scoring: Can record 1 or best of 2 trials & note chair height & adaptations such as using hands on legs or a walking aid² Repetitions that use arms to push off or use incomplete stands (not fulling standing and/or not sitting to touch the chair) do not count.



Interpretation

Direction: Higher number of repetitions = better function

SEM: Advanced hip & knee OA awaiting TJA: 0.7 reps⁶; Knee OA: 0.97 reps at baseline and 1.20 reps at 6-mo follow-up¹; Hip OA: 1.3 reps⁷

MDC_{ind}: Knee OA: 2.27 reps at baseline, 2.79 reps at 6-mos follow-up¹

MDC_{group}: Knee OA: 0.25 reps at baseline, 0.36 reps at 6-mos follow-up¹

MDC₉₀: Awaiting TKA/THA: 1.64 reps⁶

MCII & MCID (anchor-based): Hip OA: ranged from 2.0-2.6 reps, associated with a major improvement^{3,7}

Normative values/ Reference values: Online calculator with population norms available at: <https://exrx.net/Calculators/SeniorChairStand>



Interpretation (contd.)

Criterion-referenced fitness standards for the 30sCST for maintaining physical independence in older adults are available.⁹

Cut points/thresholds: No evidence found.

PASS: Hip OA: > 11 stands after 9-wk physiotherapy program & > 12 stands at 1-yr follow-up.¹⁰



Other

Key messages: Recommended. A recommended core measure by Osteoarthritis Research Society International (OARSI).² Psychometric properties are also available for the 5 and 10 time STS tests.^{3,11}

Virtual administration: Older adults with chronic lower limb musculoskeletal disorders: Virtual assessment of 30sCST had good test-retest reliability (ICC=0.77) with SEM of 1.74 & MDC₉₅ of 4.81. Good agreement (ICC = 0.82) between virtual and in-person administration.¹²

Older adults (mean age 73-yrs), excellent agreement (ICC = 0.94, 95% CI 0.88-0.97) with in-person test.¹³



Relevant Links

[Summary \(Shirley Ryan AbilitiesLab\)⁹](#)

[Summary & instructions \(OARSI\)](#)

[Instructions & scoring sheet \(CDC\)](#)

[Virtual Administration \(Centre for Health, Exercise and Sports Medicine, The University of Melbourne\)](#)

[Video \(MacICU Rehab\)](#)



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