

Purpose The MFI is a 20-item scale designed to evaluate five dimensions of fatigue: general fatigue, physical fatigue, reduced motivation, reduced activity, and mental fatigue. By limiting the length of the questionnaire, developers hoped to accommodate those individuals who might find larger measures especially tiring while still obtaining enough detailed information to examine multiple facets of fatigue.

Population for Testing The scale has been validated in a variety of participant populations, including cancer patients (mean age of 61 years), army recruits (mean age of 21 years), psychology students (mean age of 24 years), and individuals participating in a study of chronic fatigue syndrome (mean age of 39 years).

Administration The MFI is a self-report, pencil-and-paper measure requiring between 5 and 10 min for completion.

Reliability and Validity In an initial psychometric evaluation [1], developers reported an

internal consistency ranging from .53 to .93. The scale was also found to be sensitive to differences between the participant groups.

Obtaining a Copy An example of the questionnaire format is included in the original article published by developers [1].

For a complete copy, direct correspondence to:
E.M.A. Smets

Academic Medical Centre,
University of Amsterdam
Department of Medical Psychology
Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Scoring Respondents use a scale ranging from 1 to 7 to indicate how aptly certain statements regarding fatigue represent their experiences. Several positively phrased items are reverse-scored. Higher total scores correspond with more acute levels of fatigue.



MFI® MULTIDIMENSIONAL FATIGUE INVENTORY

® E. Smets, B.Garssen, B. Bonke.

Instructions:

By means of the following statements we would like to get an idea of how you have been feeling **lately**. There is, for example, the statement:

"I FEEL RELAXED"

If you think that this is **entirely true**, that indeed you have been feeling relaxed lately, please, place an **X** in the extreme left box; like this:

yes, that is true 1 2 3 4 5 no, that is not true

The more you **disagree** with the statement, the more you can place an **X** in the direction of "no, that is not true". Please do not miss out a statement and place only one **X** in a box for each statement.

1	I feel fit.	yes, that is true	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	no, that is not true
2	Physically, I feel only able to do a little.	yes, that is true	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	no, that is not true
3	I feel very active.	yes, that is true	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	no, that is not true
4	I feel like doing all sorts of nice things.	yes, that is true	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	no, that is not true
5	I feel tired.	yes, that is true	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	no, that is not true
6	I think I do a lot in a day.	yes, that is true	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	no, that is not true
7	When I am doing something, I can keep my thoughts on it.	yes, that is true	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	no, that is not true
8	Physically I can take on a lot.	yes, that is true	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	no, that is not true
9	I dread having to do things.	yes, that is true	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	no, that is not true
10	I think I do very little in a day.	yes, that is true	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	no, that is not true
11	I can concentrate well.	yes, that is true	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	no, that is not true
12	I am rested.	yes, that is true	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	no, that is not true
13	It takes a lot of effort to concentrate on things.	yes, that is true	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	no, that is not true
14	Physically I feel I am in a bad condition.	yes, that is true	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	no, that is not true
15	I have a lot of plans.	yes, that is true	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	no, that is not true
16	I tire easily.	yes, that is true	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	no, that is not true
17	I get little done.	yes, that is true	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	no, that is not true
18	I don't feel like doing anything.	yes, that is true	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	no, that is not true
19	My thoughts easily wander.	yes, that is true	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	no, that is not true
20	Physically I feel I am in an excellent condition.	yes, that is true	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	no, that is not true



Thank you very much for your cooperation

Printed with Permission from the authors Smets et al.[1].

Reference

1. Smets, E. M. A., Garssen, B., Bonke, B., & De Haes, J. C. J. M. (1995). The multidimensional fatigue inventory (MFI) psychometric qualities of an instrument to assess fatigue. *Journal of Psychosomatic Research*, *39*(5), 315–325.
- Rupp, I., Boshuizen, H. C., Jacobi, C. E., Dinant, H. J., van den Bos, G. A. M. (2004). Impact of fatigue on health-related quality of life in rheumatoid arthritis. *Arthritis & Rheumatism*, *51*(4), 578–585.

Representative Studies Using Scale

- Lou, J. S., Kearns, G., Oken, B., Sexton, G., & Nutt, J. (2001). Exacerbated physical fatigue and mental fatigue in Parkinson's disease. *Movement Disorders*, *16*(2), 190–196.