

# Yale Pharyngeal Residue Severity Rating Scale

## **What is it?**

The Yale Pharyngeal Residue Severity Rating Scale was developed to anatomically define post-swallow pharyngeal residue as observed during fiberoptic endoscopic evaluation of swallowing. It is a five-point rating scale based on location and amount of residue. The two locations include vallecula and pyriform sinuses. Severity ratings range from none to severe. It is very user friendly as images are utilized in conjunction with percentages in order to accurately assess severity of residue. See figures below detailing percentage and severity ratings.

## **How do we use the rating scale in our reports?**

You will see a table that includes each consistency and delivery method tested along with a residue rating. We generally provide the worst rating observed over multiple trials of the same consistency and delivery method. If there is variability in the severity ratings across consistency, we will provide further explanation in the notes section.

## **How does this rating scale help you and your patients?**

The Yale Pharyngeal Residue Severity Rating Scale provides objective data that has been standardized and validated to provide reliable information. The residue rating scale and placement of residue can help the examiner determine possible physiological impairments that are contributing to the patient's dysphagia. With impairments identified, the clinician can implement appropriate strategies and treatment to remediate deficits. In addition, we will provide specific strategies in our recommendations that will assist patients in clearing significant residue that the primary SLP can provide further education and training for.

### Definitions for severity of **vallecular** residue

I	None	0%	No Residue
II	Trace	1-5%	Trace coating of mucosa
III	Mild	5-25%	Epiglottic ligament visible
IV	Moderate	25-50%	Epiglottic ligament covered
V	Severe	>50%	Filled to epiglottic rim

### Definitions for severity of **pyriform sinus** residue

I	None	0%	No Residue
II	Trace	1-5%	Trace coating of mucosa
III	Mild	5-25%	Up wall to quarter full
IV	Moderate	25-50%	Up wall to half full
V	Severe	>50%	Filled to aryepiglottic fold

Resources:

Neubauer PD, Rademaker AW, Leder SB. The Yale Pharyngeal Residue Severity Rating Scale: An Anatomically Defined and Image-Based Tool. *Dysphagia*. 2015 Oct;30(5):521-8. doi: 10.1007/s00455-015-9631-4. Epub 2015 Jun 7. PMID: 26050238.

\*You can view the images for the rating scale on the full text article.