

International Index of Erectile Function (IIEF-5)

The IIEF-5 is a brief self-report questionnaire for screening and estimating the severity of erectile dysfunction in men. Derived from the long version of the International Index of Erectile Function, it explores, over the past 6 months, erection confidence, rigidity, maintenance of erection during intercourse, and the associated sexual satisfaction. Its very short format makes it a useful tool in clinical sexology, health psychology, and treatment monitoring, particularly to objectively track changes in erectile difficulties over time.

Number of questions	5 questions
Estimated duration	3 minutes
Language	English
Original name	Index of Erectile Function
Target audience	Adult men
Authors	R. C. Rosen, J. C. Cappelleri, M. D. Smith, J. Lipsky, B. M. Peña (1999)

Preview of the 5 questions

Over the past 6 months:

How do you rate your confidence that you could get and keep an erection?

Very low | Low | Moderate | High | Very high

Over the past 6 months:

When you had erections with sexual stimulation, how often were your erections hard enough for penetration?

Almost never/never | A few times (much less than half the time) | Sometimes (about half the time) | Most times (much more than half the time) | Almost always/always

Over the past 6 months:

During sexual intercourse, how often were you able to maintain your erection after you had penetrated (entered) your partner?

Almost never/never | A few times (much less than half the time) | Sometimes (about half the time) | Most times (much more than half the time) | Almost always/always

Over the past 6 months:

During sexual intercourse, how difficult was it to maintain your erection to completion of intercourse?

Extremely difficult | Very difficult | Difficult | Slightly difficult | Not difficult

Over the past 6 months:

When you attempted sexual intercourse, how often was it satisfactory for you?

Almost never/never | A few times (much less than half the time) | Sometimes (about half the time) | Most times (much more than half the time) | Almost always/always

Administer your questionnaires online

Send your patient a link: they answer from their phone or computer, and you receive the scored results by email.

View the questionnaire on mentaal.org ›

Scoring & interpretation

Add up the scores of the 5 items. Items are usually scored from 1 to 5, with a 0 option in some versions when the patient has had no sexual stimulation or has not attempted intercourse. The total score usually ranges from 1 to 25, with a lower score indicating greater impairment of erectile function. In clinical practice, a score of 21 or lower suggests erectile dysfunction. The most widely used cutoffs are 22 to 25, no dysfunction; 17 to 21, mild; 12 to 16, mild to moderate; 8 to 11, moderate; 5 to 7, severe. Scores from 1 to 4 are generally considered uninterpretable, most often because of insufficient sexual activity during the period assessed. Interpretation should be put into perspective with the relational, medical, and psychosexual context.

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