

## DESIRE FOR DECISION CONTROL SCALE

Thompson, S. C. Pitts, J., & Schwankovsky, L. (1994). Preferences for involvement in medical decision making: Situational and demographic influences. *Patient Education and Counseling*, 22, 133-140.

**For the following scenarios, try to imagine yourself in each situation. Then indicate who you think should decide which treatment program you should receive; You alone, mostly you, the doctor and you equally, mostly the doctor, or the doctor alone.**

Suppose you fall and seriously injure your knee. There are two treatment programs that are medically appropriate for your condition. You can either have surgery that will be painful and require bed rest for a month OR you can enter a twice-a-week rehabilitation program for a year. Both have a 90% chance of success.

Who should decide which treatment program you receive?

<i>You alone</i>	<i>Mostly you</i>	<i>The doctor and you equally</i>	<i>Mostly the doctor</i>	<i>The doctor alone</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>

Suppose your doctor tells you that you have high blood pressure. Two treatment choices are possible. One is medication that has possible effects of dizziness, weight gain, and impotence. The second is to adhere to a low-salt diet that involves restricting many of your favorite foods. Both have been found to be moderately successful.

Who should decide which treatment program you receive?  
(repeat scale)

Suppose your doctor discovers that you have a cancerous growth. There are two surgical treatments available. One is to have extensive surgery which would be disfiguring, but would most likely remove all the cancer. The second is to have minor surgery that would not be disfiguring, but would require follow-up chemotherapy that may have side effects of nausea, hair loss, and fatigue.

Who should decide which treatment program you receive?

Suppose you visit your doctor because you start having occasional stress headaches. There are two ways to treat your headaches. One is for the doctor to give you a powerful medication that will eliminate the pain but make you too drowsy to be able to work. The other is to attend four stress reduction classes.

Who should decide which treatment program you receive?

Suppose that you have a chronic illness that is painful. It could be treated with strong pain medication that would leave you groggy and might worsen your condition in the long run OR you could not treat the pain and just live with it.

Who should decide which treatment program you receive?

Suppose that you were diagnosed with a kidney condition. A new drug treatment was available that is very effective but has been known to cause heart irregularities and permanent vision problems in some patients. The other alternative is to have the standard treatment--it wont cure you but will manage the problem with few side effects.

Who should decide which treatment program you receive?

Suppose you developed an upper respiratory infection. A new antibiotic is available--it works in a short time, but requires you to wake up several times during the night to take medication. The other choice is to have the standard treatment--it will take longer to knock out the infection, but you do not need to disturb your sleep.

Who should decide which treatment program you receive?

Suppose you have surgery and need to take pain medication for a week to control pain from your incision. Two choices for pain administration are available: a pain control machine by the side of your bed that allows you to push a button to get a dose of pain medication at regular intervals OR the usual situation where you call the nurse when you need more medication. Who should decide which method of getting pain medication should be used.

Who should decide which treatment program you receive?

Suppose you have a history of heart problems and have been having recurring episodes of moderately severe heart pain. There are two methods available for treating your condition: an invasive procedure involving some risk and discomfort OR a long term modified and restrictive diet.

Who should decide which treatment program you receive?

**Upper Respiratory Tract Illness.** Suppose you developed a sore throat, stuffy nose, and cough that lasted for three days. You are about to call you doctor on the telephone. Who should make the following decisions?

	<i>You Alone</i>	<i>Mostly You</i>	<i>The doctor and you equally</i>	<i>Mostly the doctor</i>	<i>The doctor alone</i>
Whether you should be seen by the doctor.	1	2	3	4	5
Whether a chest x-ray should be taken.	1	2	3	4	5
Whether you should try taking cough syrup.	1	2	3	4	5

**High Blood Pressure.** Suppose you went to your doctor for a routine physical exam and he or she found that everything was right except that your blood pressure was high (170/100). Who should make the following decisions?

	<i>You Alone</i>	<i>Mostly You</i>	<i>The doctor and you equally</i>	<i>Mostly the doctor</i>	<i>The doctor alone</i>
When the next visit to check your blood pressure should be.	1	2	3	4	5

Whether you should take some

time off from work to relax.      1            2            3            4            5

Whether you should be treated  
with medication or diet.      1            2            3            4            5

**Myocardial Infarction.** Suppose you had an attack of severe chest pain that lasted for almost an hour, frightening you enough so that you went to the emergency room. In the emergency room the doctors discover that you are having a heart attack. Your own doctor is called and you are taken up to the intensive care unit. Who should make the following decisions?

	<i>You Alone</i>	<i>Mostly You</i>	<i>The doctor and you equally</i>	<i>Mostly the doctor</i>	<i>The doctor alone</i>
How often the nurses should wake you up to take your temp- ature and blood pressure	1	2	3	4	5

Whether you may have visitors aside from your immediate family.	1	2	3	4	5
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Whether a cardiologist should be consulted.	1	2	3	4	5
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