

global deterioration scale pdf

Global deterioration scale pdf: An Essential Guide to Understanding and Utilizing the GDS in Clinical Practice

The Global Deterioration Scale (GDS) PDF is an invaluable resource for healthcare professionals, researchers, and caregivers involved in the assessment and management of dementia. This comprehensive PDF document provides a detailed framework for evaluating the severity of cognitive decline in individuals suffering from Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. In this article, we will explore the significance of the GDS, its detailed stages, how to effectively utilize the GDS PDF, and its role in clinical settings.

What Is the Global Deterioration Scale (GDS)?

The Global Deterioration Scale was developed by Dr. Barry Reisberg in 1982 as a practical tool to classify the stages of cognitive decline associated with Alzheimer's disease. Its primary aim is to offer a standardized method to assess the progression of dementia, enabling better treatment planning, caregiver support, and research consistency.

The GDS is designed to be simple yet comprehensive, capturing the spectrum from normal aging to severe dementia. Its visual and descriptive approach makes it accessible for non-specialists, fostering early detection and intervention. The GDS PDF consolidates this information into a downloadable resource, often used in clinical documentation, educational settings, and research.

Why Is the GDS PDF Important?

The importance of the GDS PDF lies in its utility:

- **Standardization:** Provides a uniform language for describing dementia stages across practitioners and settings.
- **Educational Tool:** Serves as a learning resource for students, caregivers, and new clinicians.
- **Clinical Decision-Making:** Aids in tailoring interventions according to the patient's stage.
- **Research Applications:** Facilitates consistent staging in studies on dementia progression and treatment efficacy.
- **Documentation:** Offers a concise, printable reference for record-keeping and communication among healthcare teams.

The PDF format ensures portability and ease of access, making it a preferred choice for many professionals.

The Stages of Dementia in the GDS PDF

The GDS categorizes dementia into seven distinct stages, ranging from normal aging to very severe cognitive decline. Each stage describes specific behavioral, functional, and cognitive characteristics.

Stage 1: No Cognitive Decline

- Normal age-related changes with no noticeable impairment.
- No memory problems or functional difficulties.

Stage 2: Very Mild Cognitive Decline

- Occasional forgetfulness, such as misplacing objects.
- Normal age-related lapses, often unnoticed by others.

Stage 3: Mild Cognitive Decline (Early Dementia)

- Noticeable memory and concentration problems.
- Difficulty with complex tasks like managing finances.
- Challenges in planning and organizing.

Stage 4: Moderate Cognitive Decline (Mild or Early-Moderate Dementia)

- Clear deficits in memory and thinking skills.
- Impaired ability to carry out some daily activities independently.

- Difficulty with complex tasks and handling finances.
- Denial or awareness of memory problems.

Stage 5: Moderately Severe Cognitive Decline (Moderate Dementia)

- Need for assistance in choosing proper clothing.
- Difficulty remembering personal details such as address or phone number.
- Disorientation to time and place.

Stage 6: Severe Cognitive Decline (Severe Dementia)

- Requires assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs) like bathing, dressing, and eating.
- Significant personality and behavioral changes.
- Loss of awareness of recent events and surroundings.
- Potential for incontinence and difficulty swallowing.

Stage 7: Very Severe Cognitive Decline (Very Severe Dementia)

- Loss of ability to communicate verbally.
- Complete dependence on caregivers for all aspects of care.
- Limited physical activity, often confined to bed or a chair.
- Requires around-the-clock care.

Understanding and Using the GDS PDF Effectively

The GDS PDF serves as a practical guide for accurately staging dementia. Here are key strategies for effective utilization:

Familiarize with the Stage Descriptions

Carefully review each stage's criteria, paying attention to behavioral and functional indicators. This foundational understanding ensures accurate staging.

Use Observational Assessments

Clinicians and caregivers should observe the individual's daily behaviors and functions, comparing them with the descriptions in the GDS PDF.

Incorporate Standardized Tools

Combine the GDS with other assessment instruments like the Clinical Dementia Rating (CDR) or Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE) to obtain a comprehensive picture.

Document Findings Clearly

Utilize the PDF as a reference for documenting the patient's stage in medical records, ensuring consistency across interdisciplinary teams.

Educate Caregivers and Family Members

Distribute the GDS PDF to caregivers to enhance their understanding of the disease progression, fostering empathy and appropriate care strategies.

Benefits of Accessing the GDS PDF Online

Many organizations and professionals publish the GDS PDF online, providing free or paid access. Advantages include:

- Immediate availability for quick reference during assessments.
- Ease of sharing with team members and caregivers.
- Ability to print and annotate for personalized use.
- Integration into electronic health records (EHR) systems for streamlined

documentation.

When choosing a GDS PDF, ensure it is from reputable sources such as academic institutions, Alzheimer's associations, or clinical organizations to guarantee accuracy and current standards.

Limitations of the GDS and Its PDF Format

While the GDS is highly effective, it has certain limitations:

- **Subjectivity:** Stage determination can vary among clinicians.
- **Individual Variability:** Patients may not fit neatly into one stage, especially in early or atypical cases.
- **Focus on Alzheimer's Disease:** The GDS primarily addresses Alzheimer's, with less emphasis on other dementias.
- **Static Snapshot:** The GDS provides a snapshot in time but does not track progression dynamically unless reassessed regularly.

Healthcare providers should consider these limitations and supplement the GDS with comprehensive assessments.

Conclusion: The Value of the GDS PDF in Dementia Care

The Global Deterioration Scale PDF is an essential resource that enhances understanding, diagnosis, and management of dementia. Its structured stages facilitate early detection, guide treatment planning, and improve communication among healthcare teams and caregivers. Accessing and utilizing the GDS PDF effectively can significantly impact the quality of life for individuals living with dementia, providing clarity and direction throughout the disease's progression.

As dementia prevalence continues to rise globally, tools like the GDS and their downloadable PDFs will remain critical in fostering compassionate, informed, and effective care. Professionals are encouraged to incorporate the GDS PDF into their practice, ensuring they stay updated with the latest standards and best practices in dementia assessment.

References & Resources

- Reisberg, B. (1982). The Global Deterioration Scale for assessment of primary degenerative dementia. The American Journal of Psychiatry, 139(9), 1136-1139.
- Alzheimer's Association. (2023). Dementia Stages & Symptoms. [Website]
- World Health Organization. (2020). Dementia Fact Sheet. [PDF]
- Download the GDS PDF from reputable sources such as Alzheimer's organizations or academic institutions for accurate and comprehensive staging guidance.

Note: Always consult with qualified healthcare professionals for diagnosis and treatment planning. The GDS PDF is a tool to aid, not replace, professional medical advice.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Global Deterioration Scale (GDS) and how is it used in clinical practice?

The Global Deterioration Scale (GDS) is a tool used to assess the stages of cognitive decline in Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. It helps clinicians determine the severity of dementia, from no impairment to very severe decline, aiding in diagnosis, treatment planning, and caregiver support.

Where can I find a reliable PDF version of the Global Deterioration Scale?

Reliable PDF versions of the Global Deterioration Scale can typically be found on reputable medical websites, university resources, or through peer-reviewed journals that publish neuropsychological assessment tools. Always ensure the source is credible to ensure accuracy.

What are the different stages outlined in the GDS PDF, and what do they signify?

The GDS PDF outlines seven primary stages, ranging from no cognitive decline (Stage 1) to very severe decline (Stage 7). Each stage describes specific cognitive and functional abilities, helping to classify the progression of dementia.

How can I download the latest version of the GDS PDF for research purposes?

You can download the latest GDS PDF by visiting official neuropsychological assessment websites, academic institutions, or organizations specializing in dementia research. Ensure that the download is from a reputable source to obtain an accurate and updated version.

Is the GDS PDF applicable for diagnosing other types of dementia besides Alzheimer's?

While primarily designed for Alzheimer's disease, the GDS can be useful in assessing the progression of other dementias, but it should be used in conjunction with other diagnostic tools and clinical evaluations for comprehensive diagnosis.

Are there any digital tools or apps based on the GDS PDF for easier assessment?

Yes, several digital tools and mobile apps incorporate the GDS framework to facilitate easier assessment and monitoring of cognitive decline. However, clinicians should use these tools as supplementary to traditional assessments.

What are the limitations of using the GDS PDF in clinical assessments?

Limitations include its subjective nature, reliance on clinical judgment, and potential variability in interpretation. It should be used as part of a comprehensive assessment rather than a standalone diagnostic tool.

How does understanding the GDS PDF improve patient care and caregiver support?

Understanding the GDS stages helps clinicians tailor interventions, plan appropriate care strategies, and educate caregivers about disease progression, ultimately improving patient quality of life and caregiver preparedness.

Can the GDS PDF be used for tracking disease progression over time?

Yes, the GDS PDF is useful for longitudinal assessment, allowing healthcare providers to monitor changes in cognitive and functional status over time and adjust care plans accordingly.

Additional Resources

Global Deterioration Scale PDF: A Comprehensive Guide to Understanding and Utilizing the GDS

The Global Deterioration Scale PDF is an essential resource for clinicians, researchers, caregivers, and families involved in the assessment and management of cognitive decline associated with dementia, particularly Alzheimer's disease. This document offers a structured framework that categorizes the progression of cognitive impairment into distinct stages, providing clarity and consistency across various settings. Its accessibility in PDF format makes it a practical tool that can be easily shared, printed, and referenced, ensuring

that its valuable insights are available across different platforms and environments.

Understanding the Global Deterioration Scale (GDS)

Introduction to the GDS

The Global Deterioration Scale, developed by Dr. Barry Reisberg in the 1980s, is a psychometric scale designed to describe the stages of cognitive decline in Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. The GDS offers a comprehensive overview of the progression from normal aging to severe dementia, facilitating early detection, diagnosis, and appropriate intervention planning.

The GDS PDF version consolidates this information into a user-friendly, downloadable document. It provides detailed descriptions, visual aids, and guidelines that support healthcare professionals and caregivers in recognizing and categorizing the stages accurately.

Importance of the PDF Format

Having the GDS in PDF format offers multiple advantages:

- Portability: Easily stored and accessed on various devices.
- Printability: Printable for bedside assessments or caregiver handouts.
- Compatibility: Compatible across operating systems and devices.
- Security: Can be password-protected or signed for authenticity.
- Ease of Distribution: Facilitates sharing among multidisciplinary teams.

Structure and Content of the GDS PDF

Stages of Cognitive Decline

The GDS categorizes dementia progression into seven primary stages:

1. No Cognitive Decline (Normal Aging)
2. Very Mild Cognitive Decline (Age-Related Memory Loss)

3. Mild Cognitive Decline (Early Dementia)
4. Moderate Cognitive Decline (Mild to Moderate Dementia)
5. Moderately Severe Cognitive Decline (Moderate to Severe Dementia)
6. Severe Cognitive Decline (Severe Dementia)
7. Very Severe Cognitive Decline (Profound Dementia)

The PDF elaborates on each stage with detailed behavioral and functional descriptions, including typical symptoms, caregiver observations, and clinical markers. Visual aids such as charts and progression timelines enhance understanding.

Features of the PDF Document

- Clear Stage Descriptions: Each stage includes specific cognitive and functional milestones.
- Assessment Guidelines: Recommendations on observational criteria and assessment tools.
- Case Examples: Real-world scenarios illustrating each stage.
- Diagnostic Tips: Guidance for differentiating between stages and other neurological conditions.
- References and Resources: Links to additional literature and support networks.

Advantages of Using the GDS PDF in Clinical Practice

Standardization of Dementia Staging

The GDS PDF provides a universally accepted framework, promoting consistency across clinical assessments. This standardization helps in:

- Comparing patient progress over time.
- Communicating findings among healthcare professionals.
- Designing appropriate treatment and care plans.

Facilitating Early Detection

Early stages of cognitive decline are often subtle and challenging to identify. The detailed descriptions in the PDF assist clinicians in recognizing initial signs, enabling earlier intervention.

Supporting Caregiver Education

The PDF serves as an educational resource for caregivers, helping them understand what to expect at different stages and how to manage associated behaviors effectively.

Research and Data Collection

Researchers benefit from the standardized staging system outlined in the PDF, which aids in data collection, longitudinal studies, and evaluating treatment efficacy.

Limitations and Challenges

While the GDS PDF is a valuable resource, it does have certain limitations:

- Subjectivity: Some assessments rely on caregiver or clinician judgment, which can introduce variability.
- Cultural Factors: Behavioral expressions may vary across cultures, potentially affecting staging accuracy.
- Overlap of Symptoms: Some symptoms may overlap between stages, complicating precise classification.
- Not a Diagnostic Tool Alone: The GDS complements but does not replace comprehensive diagnostic procedures.

Practical Applications of the GDS PDF

In Clinical Settings

Clinicians use the GDS PDF during assessments to:

- Document disease progression.
- Make informed decisions about medication and therapeutic interventions.
- Plan for future care needs.

In Research Studies

Researchers utilize the GDS PDF to:

- Stratify participants based on disease stage.
- Monitor progression over time.
- Evaluate the impact of experimental treatments.

In Caregiving and Support

Family members and caregivers can refer to the PDF to:

- Understand behavioral changes.
- Develop appropriate caregiving strategies.
- Seek support services aligned with the patient's stage.

How to Access and Utilize the GDS PDF

Sources and Download Options

The GDS PDF is often available through:

- Official medical and neurological association websites.
- Academic institutions and universities.
- Alzheimer's associations and support groups.
- Healthcare organizations' resource libraries.

When downloading, ensure the file is from a reputable source to guarantee accuracy and security.

Tips for Effective Use

- Review the entire document thoroughly before assessment.
- Use the visual aids to assist in clinical judgment.
- Combine GDS staging with other assessment tools for comprehensive evaluation.
- Keep the PDF accessible for ongoing reference during patient care.

Conclusion

The Global Deterioration Scale PDF is an invaluable tool that brings clarity and structure to the complex process of dementia progression. Its detailed descriptions, visual aids, and

assessment guidelines empower healthcare professionals and caregivers to monitor and manage cognitive decline effectively. While it is not a standalone diagnostic instrument, its role in standardizing staging, facilitating early detection, and guiding care decisions is well recognized. As dementia remains a significant global health challenge, resources like the GDS PDF will continue to play a crucial role in improving patient outcomes and supporting families through the journey of cognitive decline.

By integrating this resource into clinical practice, research, and caregiving, we can foster a more informed, compassionate, and effective approach to dementia care.

Global Deterioration Scale Pdf

global deterioration scale pdf: *Clinician's Thesaurus* Edward L. Zuckerman, Bradley W. Estes, 2025-08-13 Hundreds of thousands of mental health professionals and students have relied on this authoritative reference, now in an updated 9th edition including the latest terms and diagnostic codes. In a convenient large-size format, the Thesaurus covers nearly all areas of concern addressed in intakes, assessments, treatment plans, progress notes, and closing summaries. Users seeking the right wording for a clinical document can scan and select from thousands of technical terms, behavioral descriptors, and standard statements. The book provides interview questions for almost every symptomatic behavior, a huge collection of mental status questions, and hundreds of internet resources. Also featured is a list of all psychiatric ICD-10-CM diagnoses, including Z-codes and medical codes essential to a comprehensive biopsychosocial evaluation. The companion website presents web links, reproducible forms from the book, and a detailed list of psychiatric medications. New to This Edition Updated for DSM-5-TR and ICD-10-CM code changes for 2025. Updated and new listings of assessment and screening tools. Revised descriptors and terms pertaining to internet use, gender and sexuality, relationships, race and ethnicity, and more. Updated treatment planning tips, web links, and psychiatric drug information.

global deterioration scale pdf: *Handbook of Occupational Therapy for Adults with Physical Disabilities* William Sit, Marsha Neville, 2024-06-01 Handbook of Occupational Therapy for Adults With Physical Disabilities by Drs. William Sit and Marsha Neville provides quick and essential information for occupational therapists that are new to the adult practice setting. This handbook is primarily organized by body system into six sections: Occupational performance as a whole Central nervous system Peripheral nervous system, cranial nerves, and sensory system Musculoskeletal system Cardiovascular, lymphatic, respiratory, and integumentary systems Endocrine, digestive, urinary, and reproductive system At the beginning of each section, you will find a case study based on clinical experience that embodies the chapter subject. Within each section information is broken down into important aspects of the evaluation process, and then followed by the implications of each system on occupational therapy intervention. Handbook of Occupational Therapy for Adults With Physical Disabilities also includes a summary chart where readers can quickly and easily find the purpose, context, form, cost, and contact information for each assessment. Handbook of Occupational Therapy for Adults With Physical Disabilities is ideal for occupational therapy students, recent graduates, and practitioners who are newly entering an adult physical disability practice setting.

global deterioration scale pdf: *Gerontological Nursing* Charlotte Eliopoulos, 2020-12-22 Gerontological Nursing, Tenth Edition focuses on the content that students need to know for effective practice, offering engaging, evidence-based coverage of the aging process, factors contributing to healthy aging, and unique aspects of disease presentation and management in older adults. The tenth edition retains the text's acclaimed holistic approach and logical overview of the

aging process, with updated content throughout to help students confidently care for an increasingly diverse population. This edition also includes Next Generation NCLEX®-Style Case Studies and Questions, which help students review important concepts and practice for the next generation NCLEX®, as well as Unfolding Patient Stories that correlate directly to simulated patient scenarios in vSim® for Nursing for enhanced preparation for practice.

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global deterioration scale pdf: Dementia and Social Work Practice Carole B. Cox, 2007-04-15 Practical coverage of driving, day care, support groups, and respite is particularly welcome. This is a good book to have available, not just for social work faculty and students, but also for those in the health sciences, psychology, and sociology. It will be a useful resource for professionals coping with the increasing problems for family and community that an aging population and the epidemic of Alzheimer's disease bring with them....Recommended. Lower-level undergraduate through professionals/practitioners.--Choice Beyond the immediate and devastating effects dementia can have on individuals and their quality of life are the strains that are placed on the families, caregivers, and communities that support them. Social workers are in a unique position to address all these issues at the same time that they provide care for individuals with dementia. To facilitate the entrance of social workers into this area of care, Carol B. Cox has edited a volume of expert articles on the biological, psychological, and social aspects of dementia. . Readers will learn the latest assessment instruments, as well as how to distinguish between Alzheimer's and non-Alzheimer's dementias. Intervention strategies for every stage of dementia are presented. The effects of culture and diversity on the treatment of persons with dementia are examined, including examples of successful programs from several countries. The benefits and drawbacks of adult day services, community care, and residential care are discussed. Finally, a discussion of the legal, financial, and psychological stresses faced by caregivers of those with dementia rounds out this much needed text.

global deterioration scale pdf: The Clinician's Guide to Geriatric Forensic Evaluations Karen Reimers, 2019-06-15 The Clinician's Guide to Geriatric Forensic Evaluations provides practical guidance to clinicians performing forensic evaluations on older adults. The book begins with how geriatric forensic evaluations differ from those done on non-geriatric adults. DSM-5 criteria for neurocognitive disorders are discussed and differentiated from the previous criteria in DSM-IV. Coverage includes assessing decision-making capacity/competence and evaluating undue influence, elder abuse, and financial exploitation. Each chapter opens with a case study and then

highlights specific assessment techniques, best practices, and common pitfalls to avoid. The book additionally covers forensic report writing, court testimony, and when to refer to an outside independent expert. Samples of geriatric forensic reports are provided. - Provides practical information on performing geriatric forensic evaluations - Identifies DSM-5 criteria for neurocognitive disorders - Includes assessing decision-making capacity/competence, undue influence, elder abuse, and financial exploitation - Features assessment strategies, case studies, best practices, and pitfalls to avoid - Advises on report writing and court testimony

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global deterioration scale pdf: Care of Older Persons Mala Kapur Shankardass, 2024-10-23 This book explores the implications and significant ethical, social, economic and health challenges that an ageing world population presents. It provides valuable insights on concerns related to providing, organizing, planning and managing care for older persons in both formal and informal settings. As the number of older persons increases rapidly around the globe, caring for them is a very important aspect of all ageing and aged societies. While in most countries the care of older persons is provided informally by family members, the changing social scene, family structures and work and employment patterns are leading many nations to create provisions for formal care through institutions or paid services of caregivers. This book offers perspectives on formal and informal care from countries such as Japan, the Netherlands, the USA, India, South Africa and Poland, among others. The essays in this book underline a rights-based approach and focus on ethical, social, economic, health and legal aspects of care as they pertain to the universal phenomena of ageing as well as the specific demographic and epidemiological realities of the selected countries. They discuss concerns such as long-term care provisions, catering to the needs of people affected by dementia, providing residential care, taking the needs of family care providers into account, the growing requirement for paid care workers and channelizing training of both skilled and semi-skilled care providers to suit the needs of older people. This volume would be of interest to scholars and those working in the fields of sociology, health studies, age and ageing, psychology, social work, medical sciences, nursing and public policy. It will also be useful to NGO sector workers, administrators, as well as grassroots workers involved with the care of older persons.

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With the proliferation of the research literature in traumatic brain injuries, this is the time for a book that surveys the landscape and assesses where the field is headed and what is needed moving forward.

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global deterioration scale pdf: Adult Neurogenic Language Disorders Joan C. Payne, 2014-02-25

global deterioration scale pdf: *The Handbook of Neuropsychiatric Biomarkers, Endophenotypes and Genes* Michael Ritsner, 2009-04-21 Neuropsychiatric disorders such as schizophrenia, mood disorders, Alzheimer's disease, epilepsy, alcoholism, substance abuse and others are some of the most debilitating illnesses worldwide characterized by the complexity of causes, and lacking the laboratory tests that may promote diagnostic and prognostic procedures. Recent advances in neuroscience, genomic, genetic, proteomic and metabolomic knowledge and technologies have opened the way to searching biomarkers and endophenotypes, which may offer powerful and exciting opportunities to understand the etiology and the underlying pathophysiological mechanisms of neuropsychiatric disorders. The challenge now is to translate these advances into meaningful diagnostic and therapeutic advances. This book offers a broad synthesis of the current knowledge about diverse topics of the biomarker and endophenotype strategies in neuropsychiatry. The book is organized into four interconnected volumes: "Neuropsychological Endophenotypes and Biomarkers" (with overview of methodological issues of the biomarker and endophenotype approaches in neuropsychiatry and some technological advances), "Neuroanatomical and Neuroimaging Endophenotypes and Biomarkers", "Metabolic and Peripheral Biomarkers" and "Molecular Genetic and Genomic Markers". The contributors are internationally and nationally recognized researchers and experts from 16 countries. This four-volume handbook is intended for a broad spectrum of readers including neuroscientists, psychiatrists, neurologists, endocrinologists, pharmacologists, clinical psychologists, general practitioners, geriatricians, health care providers in the field of neurology and mental health interested in trends that have crystallized in the last decade, and trends that can be expected to further evolve in the coming years. It is hoped that this book will also be a useful resource for the teaching of psychiatry, neurology, psychology and mental health.

global deterioration scale pdf: *Neuropalliative Care*, 2023-01-03 Neuropalliative Care, Part Two, Volume 191 covers a type of care that is given when there is no cure for the neurological disorder and the patient is in distress. It provides a scholarly background of neuropalliative care, from historic underpinnings to its practice in various geographical regions, along with best practices for specific neurological disorders. It covers the work of multi or interdisciplinary teams whose care is intended to make the patient as comfortable as possible and includes partners and families in treatment plans. - Summarizes research in neuropalliative care - Identifies current practices in different geographic regions - Provides best practices for specific neurological disorders and patient populations - Includes advanced care planning

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relevance of animal models is discussed in terms of major limitations in cross-species comparisons, clinical trial design of drug candidates, and how clinical trial endpoints could be improved. The aim of this series of volumes on Animal and Translational Models for CNS Drug Discovery is to identify and provide common endpoints between species that can serve to inform both the clinic and the bench with the information needed to accelerate clinically-effective CNS drug discovery. This is the second volume in the three volume-set, Animal and Translational Models for CNS Drug Discovery 978-0-12-373861-5, which is also available for purchase individually. - Clinical, academic, government and industry perspectives fostering integrated communication between principle participants at all stages of the drug discovery process - Critical evaluation of animal and translational models improving transition from drug discovery and clinical development - Emphasis on what results mean to the overall drug discovery process - Exploration of issues in clinical trial design and conductance in each therapeutic area

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