Montgomery and Asberg Depression Rating Scale (MADRS)

The rating should be based on a clinical interview moving from broadly phrased questions about symptoms to more detailed ones which allow a precise rating of severity. The rater must decide whether the rating lies on the defined scale steps (0, 2, 4, 6) or between them (1, 3, 5) and then report the appropriate number. The items should be rated with regards to how the patient has done over the past week.

1. APPARENT SADNESS
   Representing despondency, gloom and despair, (more than just ordinary transient low spirits) reflected in speech, facial expression, and posture. Rate by depth and inability to brighten up.
   - 0 = No sadness.
   - 1 = Slightly reduced appetite.
   - 2 = Slightly reduced appetite.
   - 3 = Reduced appetite.
   - 4 = No appetite. Food is tasteless.
   - 5 = Needs persuasion to eat at all.

2. REPORTED SADNESS
   Representing reports of depressed mood, regardless of whether it is reflected in appearance or not. Includes low spirits, despondency or the feeling of being beyond help and without hope. Rate according to intensity, duration and the extent to which the mood is reported to be influenced by events.
   - 0 = Occasional sadness in keeping with the circumstances.
   - 1 = Sad but brightens up without difficulty.
   - 2 = Slight difficulty drooping off to sleep or slightly reduced, light or fitful sleep.
   - 3 = Sleep reduced or broken by at least two hours.
   - 4 = Continuous or unvarying sadness, misery or despondency.

3. INNER TENSION
   Representing feelings of ill-defined discomfort, edginess, inner turmoil, mental tension mounting to either panic, dread or anguish. Rate according to intensity, frequency, duration and the extent of reassurance called for.
   - 0 = Placid. Only fleeting inner tension.
   - 1 = Occasional feelings of edginess and ill-defined discomfort.
   - 2 = Continuous feelings of inner tension or intermittent panic which the patient can only master with some difficulty.
   - 3 = Unrelenting dread or anguish. Overwhelming panic.

4. REDUCED SLEEP
   Representing the experience of reduced duration or depth of sleep compared to the subject’s own normal pattern when well.
   - 0 = Sleeps as usual.
   - 1 = Slight difficulty dropping off to sleep or slightly reduced, light or fitful sleep.
   - 2 = Sleep reduced or broken by at least two hours.
   - 3 = Continuous or unvarying sadness, misery or despondency.
   - 4 = The experience of being emotionally paralyzed, inability to feel anger, grief or pleasure and a complete or even painful failure to feel for close relatives and friends.
   - 5 = Inability to feel the guilt, inferiority, self-reproach, sinfulness, remorse and ruin.
   - 6 = Explicit plans for suicide when there is an opportunity. Active preparations for suicide.

5. REDUCED APPETITE
   Representing the feeling of a loss of appetite compared with when well. Rate by loss of desire for food or the need to force oneself to eat.
   - 0 = Normal or increased appetite.
   - 1 = Slightly reduced appetite.
   - 2 = No appetite. Food is tasteless.
   - 3 = Needs persuasion to eat at all.

6. CONCENTRATION DIFFICULTIES
   Representing difficulties in collecting one’s thoughts mounting to incapacitating lack of concentration. Rate according to intensity, frequency, and degree of incapacity produced.
   - 0 = No difficulties in concentrating.
   - 1 = Occasional difficulties in concentrating.
   - 2 = Difficulties in starting simple routine activities, which are carried out with effort.
   - 3 = Loss of interest in the surroundings. Loss of feelings for friends and acquaintances.
   - 4 = Complete lassitude. Unable to do anything without help.

7. LASSITUDE
   Representing a difficulty getting started or slowness initiating and performing everyday activities.
   - 0 = Normal interest in the surroundings and in other people.
   - 1 = Reduced ability to enjoy usual interests.
   - 2 = Loss of interest in the surroundings. Loss of feelings for friends and acquaintances.
   - 3 = Complete lassitude. Unable to do anything without help.

8. INABILITY TO FEEL
   Representing the subjective experience of reduced interest in the surroundings, or activities that normally give pleasure. The ability to react with adequate emotion to circumstances or people is reduced.
   - 0 = Normal interest in the surroundings and in other people.
   - 1 = Reduced ability to enjoy usual interests.
   - 2 = Loss of interest in the surroundings. Loss of feelings for friends and acquaintances.
   - 3 = Complete lassitude. Unable to do anything without help.

9. PESSIMISTIC THOUGHTS
   Representing thoughts of guilt, inferiority, self-reproach, sinfulness, remorse and ruin.
   - 0 = No pessimistic thoughts.
   - 1 = Slight difficulty dropping off to sleep or slightly reduced, light or fitful sleep.
   - 2 = Continuous feelings of inner tension or intermittent panic which the patient can only master with some difficulty.
   - 3 = Unrelenting dread or anguish. Overwhelming panic.

10. SUICIDAL THOUGHTS
    Representing the feeling that life is not worth living, that a natural death would be welcome, suicidal thoughts, and preparations for suicide. Suicidal attempts should not in themselves influence the rating.
    - 0 = Enjoys life or takes it as it comes.
    - 1 = Weary of life. Only fleeting suicidal thoughts.
    - 2 = Probably better off dead. Suicidal thoughts are common, and suicide is considered as a possible solution, but without specific plans or intention.
    - 3 = Explicit plans for suicide when there is an opportunity. Active preparations for suicide.

Total Score