

Name: _____

Date: _____

PILL-5 Assessment Tool

The PILL-5 is a validated questionnaire to determine the level of difficulty swallowing pills. Please review the questions and circle the response that indicates how frequently you experience these symptoms.

- 0 = Never
- 1 = Almost Never
- 2 = Sometimes
- 3 = Almost Always
- 4 = Always

Please circle the response that indicates how frequently you experience these symptoms.					
1. Pills stick in my throat	0	1	2	3	4
2. Pills stick in my chest	0	1	2	3	4
3. I have a fear of swallowing pills	0	1	2	3	4
4. My problem swallowing pills interferes with my ability to take my medicine	0	1	2	3	4
5. I can't take my pills without crushing, coating, or using other forms of assistance	0	1	2	3	4
Total PILL-5 Score					

Interpretation of Score

PILL-5 Score	Interpretation
6 to 11	Suggests pill swallowing is abnormal. Patients should discuss their results with their doctor. Alternative ways to take medication may be required that is easier to swallow.
≥ 11	Suggests moderate to severe pill dysphagia. Patients should discuss their results with their doctor. An altered formulation of medication may be required that is easier to swallow.

Reference: Nativ-Zeltzer N, Bayoumi A, Mandin VP, Kaufman M, Seeni I, Kuhn MA and Belafsky PC (2019) Validation of the PILL-5: A 5-Item Patient Reported Outcome Measure for Pill Dysphagia. Front. Surg. 6:43. doi: 10.3389/fsurg.2019.00043.