

INTRODUCTION

Blind

You were born totally blind (inability to see light). You have a walking cane which enables mobility to and from places you know well, such as around the home and to the local shop, however you are afraid of going alone to places you don't know well. You experience no pain. The visual impairment limits your potential to participate in many forms of physical recreation. You are dependent on others to drive you to appointments, social activities and work and the visual impairment has restricted your employment opportunities. You experience social stigma, low self-esteem, anxiety and depression.

Quadriplegia

You are in a car accident and the damage to your spinal cord has resulted in quadriplegia. You have total loss of your lower limbs, can move your arms but cannot move your fingers. You have lost the ability to control your bowel and bladder, and have impaired sexual function. You experience reduced sensation in your limbs and sometimes experience neuropathic pain. You use an electric wheelchair to get around, however are somewhat dependent on others for personal hygiene, dressing and undressing, eating and transferring from the bed to the wheelchair. You experience severe depression.

Eczema

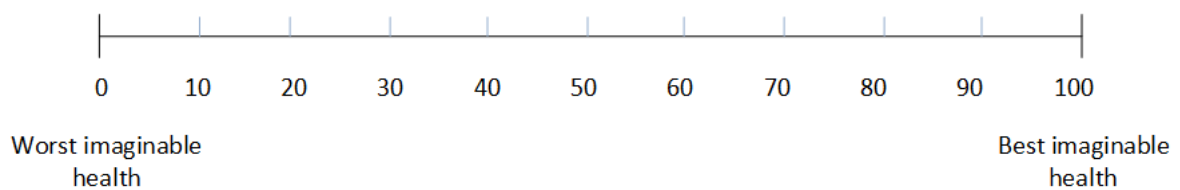
You have chronic eczema, a recurring skin rash that is itchy, red and dry. It appears on the inside of the elbows and if you scratch the spot repeatedly it can spread and/or bleed. You experience some low self-esteem and depression and rarely wear clothing with short sleeves.

EXERCISE

Imagine you are a patient experiencing the each of the following conditions: blind (A), quadriplegia (B), and eczema (C).

VISUAL ANALOGUE SCALE (VAS)

For each condition, indicate with a line cutting the VAS and writing A, B or C, where you believe your experience of each of the conditions lies with respect to the best and worst imaginable health:



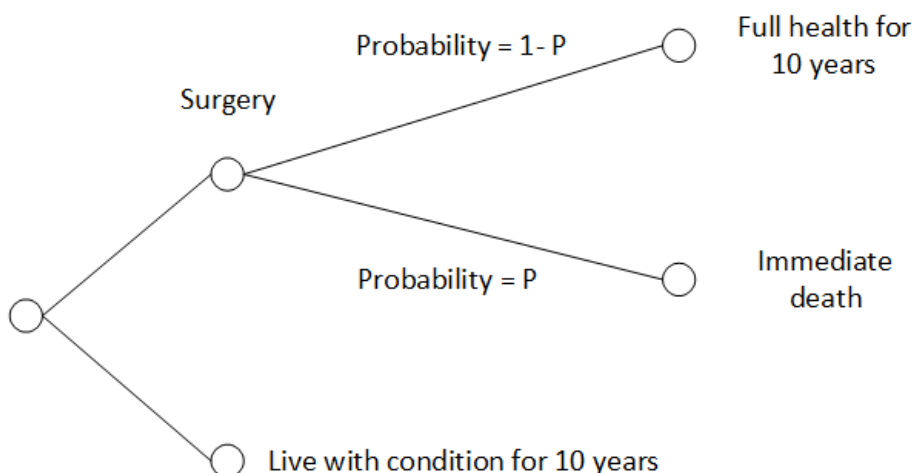
STANDARD GAMBLE (SG)

Imagine your life expectancy is 10 years and during this time you are either blind (A), have quadriplegia (B), or have eczema (C). Surgery can return you back to full health for 10 years, but there is a risk of death (P). At what level of risk of death are you indifferent between remaining in the health state and undergoing surgery?

Blind (A) _____ %

Quadriplegia (B) _____ %

Eczema (C) _____ %



TIME TRADE OFF (TTO)

Imagine your life expectancy is 10 years and during this time you are either blind (A), have quadriplegia (B), or have eczema (C). How much life expectancy are you willing to give up so that you can return to full health for the remaining period? e.g. giving up 6 years means that you will experience 4 years in full health.

Blind (A) _____ years

Quadriplegia (B) _____ years

Eczema (C) _____ years

