

NDE Scale

Description of the NDE Scale

The NDE Scale has been derived from a previous questionnaire including 80 manifestations commonly described in the phenomenological literature of NDEs. Among these 80 manifestations, the 40 items most commonly reported were selected. A later analysis led to the exclusion of further seven items because of their redundancy or ambiguity, with the remaining 33 items being reworded into questions with 3-point-scaled answers, to allow the scoring of each item as definitely present, questionable or atypical, and definitively absent (Greyson, 1983). This preliminary 33-item questionnaire was administered to 67 subjects two times in order to assess internal consistency and test-retest reliability. The final NDE Scale resulting from this process included 16 questions grouped into four psychologically meaningful clusters: the cognitive cluster, the affective cluster, the paranormal cluster, and the transcendental cluster. For each item, the scores are arranged on an ordinal scale ranging from 0 to 2 (i.e., 0 = "not present," 1 = "mildly or ambiguously present," and 2 = "definitively present") (Greyson, 1983; Lange et al., 2004).

Questions and weighted response for the **NDE Scale**:

1. Did time seem to speed up or slow down?

0 = No

1 = Time seemed to go faster or slower than usual

2 = Everything seemed to be happening at once; or time stopped or lost all meaning

2. Were your thoughts speeded up?

0 = No

1 = Faster than usual

2 = Incredibly fast

3. Did scenes from your past come back to you?

0 = No

1 = I remembered many past events

2 = My past flashed before me, out of my control

4. Did you suddenly seem to understand everything?

0 = No

1 = Everything about myself or others

2 = Everything about the universe

5. Did you have a feeling of peace or pleasantness?

0 = No

1 = Relief or calmness

2 = Incredible peace or pleasantness

6. Did you have a feeling of joy?

0 = No

1 = Happiness

2 = Incredible joy

7. Did you feel a sense of harmony or unity with the universe?

0 = No

1 = I felt no longer in conflict with nature

2 = I felt united or one with the world

8. Did you see, or feel surrounded by, a brilliant light?

0 = No

1 = An unusually bright light

2 = A light clearly of mystical or other-worldly origin

9. Were your senses more vivid than usual?

0 = No

1 = More vivid than usual

2 = Incredibly more vivid

10. Did you seem to be aware of things going on elsewhere, as if by extrasensory perception (ESP)?

0 = No

1 = Yes, but the facts have not been checked out

2 = Yes, and the facts have been checked out

11. Did scenes from the future come to you?

0 = No

1 = Scenes from my personal future

2 = Scenes from the world's future

12. Did you feel separated from your body?

0 = No

1 = I lost awareness of my body

2 = I clearly left my body and existed outside it

13. Did you seem to enter some other, unearthly world?

0 = No

1 = Some unfamiliar and strange place

2 = A clearly mystical or unearthly realm

14. Did you seem to encounter a mystical being or presence, or hear an unidentifiable voice?

0 = No

1 = I heard a voice I could not identify

2 = I encountered a definite being, or a voice clearly of mystical or unearthly origin

15. Did you see deceased or religious spirits?

0 = No

1 = I sensed their presence

2 = I actually saw them

16. Did you come to a border or point of no return?

0 = No

1 = I came to a definite conscious decision to “return” to life

2 = I came to a barrier that I was not permitted to cross; or was “sent back” against my will.

Greyson, B. (1983). The near-death experience scale. Construction, reliability, and validity. *J. Nerv. Ment. Dis.* 171, 369–375. doi: 10.1097/00005053-198306000-00007

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Lange, R., Greyson, B., and Houran, J. (2004). A Rasch scaling validation of a ‘core’ near-death experience. *Br. J. Psychol.* 95(Pt 2), 161–177. doi: 10.1348/000712604773952403