

How to assess nutritional status?



Unit1: Nutritional assessment

Lesson5: Body mass index (BMI) and body fat percentage

$$BMI = \frac{weight (kg)}{height^2(m^2)}$$

Accurate weight measurement:

- Make sure the scale is calibrated before measuring the weight. 1)
- Do not weight after having a big meal or doing strenuous exercises. 2)
- Make sure that you are not wearing heavy clothes or shoes. 3)
- Morning is the best time to measure weight. 4)
- Stand straight. 5)
- Take the weight in kilograms (Kg). 6)

Accurate height measurement:

- Take off your shoes. 1)
- Stand straight with good posture. 2)
- Keep your heels against the wall and feet together. 3)
- Look straight. 4)
- Take the height in meters (m). 5)
- Waist circumference "WC": (distance around the waist)

How to measure waist circumference?

- 1. Place the tape on the mid-point between the top of the hip & lower ribs. 88cm 80cm
- 2. The tape not too loose or tight.
- The abdominal muscles should not be tensed. 3.
- After expiration (exhale/ breathing out).
- Note: bigger WC means more abdominal fats & more likely to develop metabolic disorders (age & ethnicity can affect the results)

Increased risk

Greatly increased risk



body fat

Nutritional status assessment (category)	Stands for	Definition	Examples	What kind of results or findings can it show?
A	A nthropometry	Body measurements	Age/ weight/ height / length/ BMI/ growth plot /fat composition (WC/ DEXA/ BIA/ skinfold/ water weighing)	 Checks: 1) Growth & development. 2) Weight & fat content & if the person is under risk of developing diseases.
В	Biochemical methods	Laboratory measurements	Examine blood & urine samples	Show long or short term deficiency (iron deficiency "anemia"/iodine deficiency "goiter"/vitamin D & calcium deficiency "osteoporosis")
C	C linical methods	Physical examination + medical history review	Medication & supplement use etc.	Identify any signs of malnutrition
D	D ietary intakes	FFQ + dietary recall	Questions about consumed foods & drinks	Helps to decide if the patient is getting all the nutrients