

# **Essential Fatty Acid Status Evaluation**

## By Dr. Ritamarie Loscalzo

#### Instructions:

Answer each multiple-choice question as accurately as you can. Your answers will create a "score" that will be used to assess your risk of an essential fatty acid deficiency and related illnesses.

Each multiple choice question has a numeric value that is also your "score" for that question. A general point scale is provided (alternative criteria are provided in brackets in case you need to adjust your reading of any particular questions).

Answer each question, then add up the sum of your scores. Enter the total in the specified blank at the bottom of the assessment.

#### **Point Scale:**

- **0 = never** (also: least, no, never tried/experienced)
- **1 = mild** (also: occasionally; symptom occurs rarely i.e. a couple of times a month at most)
- **2 = moderate** (also: some severity/intensity, and/or frequency, often; symptom occurs weekly)
- **3 = severe/absolute** (also: frequent, intense, most, always, yes)

### **Essential Fatty Acids Questionnaire**

- 1. Do you experience pain relief with aspirin?
  - 0 = never
  - 1 = mild
  - 2 = moderate
  - 3 = severe/absolute

	2 = moderate
	3 = severe/absolute
3.	Do you have a history of following a low or reduced-fat diet?  0 = never  1 = years ago  2 = within last year  3 = within past 3 months
4.	Do you experience tension headaches at the base of your skull?  0 = never  1 = mild  2 = moderate  3 = severe/absolute
5.	Do you get headaches when out in the hot sun?  0 = never  1 = mild  2 = moderate  3 = severe/absolute
6.	Do you sunburn easily or suffer sun poisoning?  0 = never  1 = mild  2 = moderate  3 = severe/absolute
7.	Do your muscles easily fatigue?  0 = never  1 = mild  2 = moderate  3 = severe/absolute

2. Do you crave fatty or greasy foods?

0 = never1 = mild

8.	Do you have dry, flaky skin?  0 = never  1 = mild  2 = moderate  3 = severe/absolute
9.	Do you ever experience "goose flesh/goose bumps"?  0 = never  1 = mild  2 = moderate  3 = severe/absolute
10	Do you have ridged, cracked, and/or peeling nails?  0 = never  1 = mild  2 = moderate  3 = severe/absolute
11.	Do you have magnesium and Vitamin B6 deficiencies that don't respond to supplementation? $0 = no$ $3 = yes$
12.	Do you have dandruff?  0 = never  1 = mild  2 = moderate  3 = severe/absolute
13.	Do you have areas of inflamed soft tissue?  0 = never  1 = mild  2 = moderate  3 = severe/absolute

14. Do you have inflamed joints?
0 = never
1 = mild
2 = moderate
3 = severe/absolute
15. Do you have cracks in your heels?
0 = never
1 = mild
2 = moderate
3 = severe/absolute
16. Do you have red cuticles?
0 = never
1 = mild
2 = moderate
3 = severe/absolute
17. Do you have acne?
0 = never
1 = mild
2 = moderate
3 = severe/absolute
18. Do you have breast cysts?
0 = never
1 = mild
2 = moderate
3 = severe/absolute
19. Do you suffer from diarrhea?
0 = never
1 = mild
2 = moderate
3 = severe/absolute

	3 = severe/absolute
21.	Do you have Eczema?
	0 = never
	1 = mild
	2 = moderate
	3 = severe/absolute
22.	Do you have excess ear wax?
	0 = never
	1 = mild
	2 = moderate
	3 = severe/absolute
23.	Do you have gall stones?
	0 = never
	1 = mild
	2 = moderate
	3 = severe/absolute
24.	Have you experienced hair loss?
	0 = never
	1 = mild
	2 = moderate
	3 = severe/absolute
25.	Do you suffer from any immune impairment?
	0 = never
	1 = mild
	2 = moderate
	3 = severe/absolute

20. Do you have dry hair?

0 = never1 = mild

2 = moderate

26. Do you have a history of infertility?	
0 = never	
1 = years ago	
2 = within last year	
3 = within past 3 months	
27. Do you have a history of liver degeneration?	
0 = never	
1 = years ago	
2 = within last year	
3 = within past 3 months	
28. Are you prone to poor wound healing?	
0 = never	
1 = mild	
2 = moderate	
3 = severe/absolute	
29. Are you prone to premenstrual syndrome? (males select '	"0")
0 = never	
1 = mild	
2 = moderate	
3 = severe/absolute	
30. Do you have sores around your mouth?	
0 = never	
1 = mild	
2 = moderate	
3 = severe/absolute	
31. Do you have dry lips?	
0 = never	
1 = mild	
2 = moderate	

32. Do you have split cuticles?  0 = never  1 = mild
2 = moderate 3 = severe/absolute
33. Do you ever notice splitting nails?  0 = never  1 = mild  2 = moderate  3 = severe/absolute
<b>TOTAL:</b> (÷ by total possible score of 99) = %
Scoring:
0-10% - Overall good balance. Sound nutrition and healthy habits will maintain good balance.
11-20% - In need of a tune up to restore balance before serious illness sets in. Diet and lifestyle improvements should shift to normal.
21-35% - Things are out of balance and need attention.
36-50% - Very compromised and likely to significantly affect your state of health, well-being and energy level.
51-100% - Severely compromised and requires immediate attention.