

ECOG PERFORMANCE STATUS SCALE



General George B. McClellan, by Mathew Brady

“I am to watch over you as a parent over his children, and you know that your general loves you from the depths of his heart. It shall be my care to gain success with the least possible loss”.

General George B. McClellan, address to the Army of the Potomac, on the eve of the Peninsular Campaign, American Civil War, March 1862.

On April 4, George McClellan at last began to move for Richmond - 121,500 men, 14,592 horses and mules, 1,150 wagons, 44 batteries of artillery, ambulances, pontoon bridges, tons of provisions, tents, telegraph wire. It took 400 boats 3 weeks to land it all at Fortress Monroe on the Virginia coast.

“The whole region seems literally filled with soldiery. One of the finest armies ever marshaled on the globe now wakes up these long stagnant fields and woods. General McClellan is here and commands in person”.
(Reverend A.M Stewart)

“I am to watch over you as a parent over his children, and you know that your general loves you from the depths of his heart. It shall be my care to gain success with the least possible loss”.
(George B. McClellan)

But at Yorktown, less than 20 miles away, the Confederates waited, vastly outnumbered, but determined to defend their homes and hurl back the invaders.

For the North it was slow going. Roads said to be bone dry were bogs. Union officers forced to rely on store bought maps lost their way.

Finally on April 5, the advance guard reached Yorktown, where the Confederates had taken over the building used by Lord Cornwallis as headquarters during the Revolutionary War.

There were just 11,000 Southern troops dug in, not even a tenth of McClellan’s force. But the Confederate commander was John Bankhead Magruder, a showy Virginian who loved amateur theatricals. He now outdid even himself. To fool McClellan into believing that his small force was enormous, Magruder kept up a sporadic, widely scattered artillery barrage and paraded one battalion in and out of a clearing in an endless circle until it seemed to Union observers, a mighty host.

“This morning we were called out by the long roll, and have been travelling most of the day, seeming with no other view than to show ourselves to the enemy at as many different points of the line as possible....I’m pretty tired...”
(Corporal Edmund Patterson, 9th Alabama)

“It seems clear that I shall have the whole force of the enemy on my hands”, McClellan telegraphed Lincoln, “Probably not less than 100,000 men and possibly more”.

McClellan called for reinforcements!

General Joseph E Johnston, the overall Confederate Commander, could not believe his luck. “Nobody but McClellan”, he said, “could have hesitated to attack”.

“Once more let me tell you. It is indispensable to you that you strike a blow. I have never written to you or spoken to you in greater kindness than now, nor with fuller purpose to sustain you, but you must act”.
(Abraham Lincoln)

“The President very coolly telegraphed me that he thought I had better break the enemy’s lines at once. I was much tempted to reply that he had better come and do it himself!”

(George B. McClellan)

“I don’t see the sense of piling up earth to keep us apart. It we don’t get at each other sometime, when will the war end? My plan would be to quit ditching and go fighting”.

(Union Soldier)

But McClellan chose to dig in.

As he settled in for a siege of Yorktown, Union General Phil Kearny took to calling his commander the “Virginia creeper”.

“During the Peninsular campaign, McClellan’s working his way up the York James Peninsular, and he came to a stream, and he and his staff were sitting there wondering how deep it was, if they had to march across it. And Custer, who was a junior officer on his staff - just graduated from West Point, a Captain I think - rode out into midstream, sat on his horse, and turned around in the saddle and said, “General McClellan sir, this is how deep it is, General”.

(Shelby Foote, Civil War Historian). ...

The armies that U.S Grant and George McClellan led were the best equipped in history. The productive capacity and technical ingenuity of the North were now focused on weapons. And the Civil War would see the first railroad artillery, the first land mines and telescopic sights, the first military telegraphs. In 1862 alone, 240 patents were issued for military weapons. Lincoln was fascinated by new weaponry. He personally tested new rifles and ordered up 10 Union repeating guns, forerunners of the machine gun....

David McCullough and Shelby Foote in Ken Burns’, “The Civil War”, 1990.

After the disaster at Bull Run, the previous year, it was now plain to all that it was to be no 90 day war. Lincoln gathered together a new army to crush the South. At over 120,000 men, it was over three and half times the size of Irvin McDowell’s army and under the new Union commander, General George B. McClellan, it was the best trained and equipped army in history. Instead of repeating the direct frontal invasion of the South, that McDowell, had undertaken, McClellan came up with a plan for a wide flanking move on Richmond that would sail his army from Washington down the Potomac, to Fort Monroe on the Virginia Peninsular, then over land up the Virginia Peninsular to Richmond. During diversionary skirmishes that held up his Peninsular advance Confederate General Joe Johnston was severely wounded. For the defence of Richmond, command passed to Robert E. Lee who for the first time in the war led a large army. By June McClellan had his army entrenched outside Richmond, now half surrounded. The North confidently awaited the final climactic and inevitable annihilation of the Confederacy. But on June 25th, against all expectations, Lee struck first. Over the next seven days, in a series of astonishingly audacious and bloody battles, Lee completely out manoeuvred McClellan. Never relinquishing the initiative, he sent him reeling from Richmond, and scrambling all the way back to the safety of the James River. In just seven days Lee had defeated the great Army of the Potomac and saved Richmond and the Confederacy! The Battle of the Seven Days, as

it became known would mark the first inkling of the emergence of one of history's greatest field commanders - Robert E. Lee.

Though General George B. McClellan, was a superb organizer and trainer of armies, on the actual field of battle, it was quantity that became the overriding factor for success in his eyes. Though it is a general truism that "God is on the side of the big battalions" - quantity in isolation is no ironclad guarantee of victory, rather it is the quality of command that often proves the more decisive factor.

When we attempt to measure the success or otherwise of our treatments for Oncology patients, we do well to remember the lessons of the Seven Days Battle, and the legendary commander Robert E. Lee. Though the quantity of life is important, it is the quality of life that is more important still!

In the sphere of Oncology we may make some judgment on the quality of the life our patients, by means of the ECOG Performance Scale.



...The armies that U.S Grant and George McClellan led were the best equipped in history.

ECOG PERFORMANCE STATUS SCALE

Introduction

The **ECOG** (*Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group*) **Performance Status Scale** is a scale that is used by clinicians as well as researchers to assess the degree to which a patient's disease affects their **daily living activities**.

It is commonly applied to **oncology** patients.

The ECOG Scale

ECOG PERFORMANCE STATUS	
Grade	ECOG
0	Fully active, able to carry on all pre-disease performance without restriction
1	Restricted in physically strenuous activity but ambulatory and able to carry out work of a light or sedentary nature, e.g., light house work, office work
2	Ambulatory and capable of all self-care but unable to carry out any work activities. Up and about more than 50% of waking hours
3	Capable of only limited self-care, confined to bed or chair more than 50% of waking hours
4	Completely disabled. Cannot carry on any self-care. Totally confined to bed or chair
5	Deceased

Utility

The 0-4 scale is often used as a standard to assess disease progress, or response to treatment, in oncology patients.

In general terms it is useful for:

- Prognosis.

- Measuring response to treatments.
- Guiding treatment decisions.
- Assisting in assessing the quality of life of a patient
- Assisting in decisions about the “aggressiveness” of resuscitation efforts in the ED
- **Clinical trials**, (suitability for/ response to treatments)



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References

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Reviewed June 2018.