



### **Rome III Criteria for Functional Constipation\***

1. Must include  $\geq 2$  of the following:

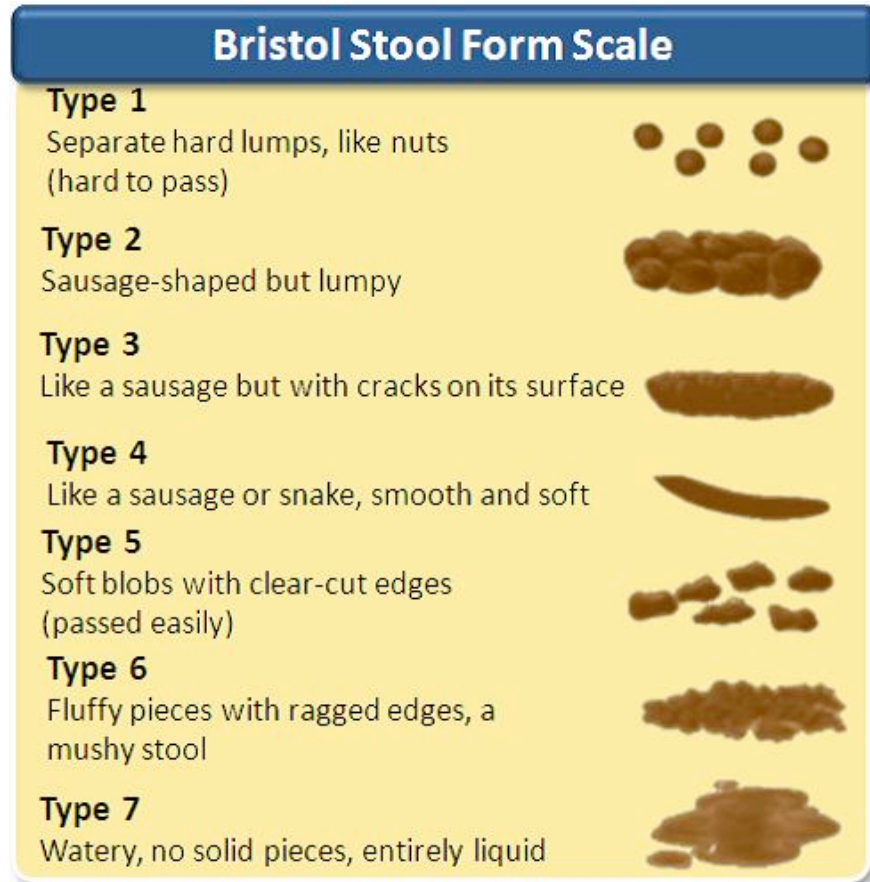
- Straining during  $\geq 25\%$  of defecations
- Lumpy or hard stools in  $\geq 25\%$  of defecations
- Sensation of incomplete evacuation for  $\geq 25\%$  of defecations
- Sensation of anorectal obstruction/blockage for  $\geq 25\%$  of defecations
- Manual maneuvers to facilitate  $\geq 25\%$  of defecations (eg, digital evacuation, support of the pelvic floor)
- $< 3$  defecations per week

2. Loose stools are rarely present without the use of laxatives

3. There are insufficient criteria for irritable bowel syndrome

\*Criteria fulfilled for the last 3 months with symptom onset  $\geq 6$  months prior to diagnosis.

Source: Longstreth GF, Thompson WG, Chey WD, Houghton LA, Mearin F, Spiller RC. Functional bowel disorders. *Gastroenterology*. 2006;130(5):1480-1491.



Source: Lewis SJ, Heaton KW. Stool form scale as a useful guide to intestinal transit time. *Scand J Gastroenterol.* 1997;32(9):920-924. Reproduced with permission of TAYLOR & FRANCIS A S.