

Facial Nerve Test

Name:

Date:

Materials needed

- Reflex hammer or index finger for tapping.
- Well-lit and quiet examination room

Instructions

1. Gather pertinent medical history, including any known facial nerve issues.
2. Prompt the patient to look up or wrinkle their forehead for asymmetry inspection.
3. Have the patient tightly close their eyes; check for incomplete closure or inadequate eyelash "burying" on one side.
4. Monitor nasolabial folds and mouth while the patient focuses on their eyes.
5. Identify any orbicularis oculi contraction asymmetry, which may display as milder contractions near the mouth and nose.
6. Request the patient to smile, show teeth, or pull back mouth corners; watch for asymmetry, especially around the mouth.
7. Observe the blink reflex during conversation, noting any irregularities or asymmetry.
8. Tap gently on the glabella using a reflex hammer or index finger to trigger the blink reflex; observe for mild asymmetry.
9. If necessary, have the patient lie flat on the examining table with face up.
10. Slide the patient's head off the table, allowing eyelids to work against gravity.
11. Instruct the patient to close both eyes and check for incomplete closure.
12. Tap the glabella again and note any blink reflex asymmetry.
13. Document all observations, including asymmetry signs, incomplete closure, or mild facial weakness.
14. Based on examination results, decide on further evaluation or referral to a specialist.

Findings

Additional notes

Reference

H. Kenneth Walker. (2022). *Cranial Nerve VII: The Facial Nerve and Taste*. [Nih.gov](#); Butterworths.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK385/#:~:text=Ask%20the%20patient%20to%20look>