

# Trigeminal Nerve Test

Name	Date
<p>The Trigeminal Nerve Test is a key component of the neurological examination, primarily intended to assess the integrity of the fifth cranial nerve (Trigeminal nerve). The test evaluates both the sensory and motor functions of the nerve.</p>	
<b>Instructions</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Begin by inspecting the patient's face for any noticeable muscular atrophy or twitching, which can indicate damage to the trigeminal nerve.</li><li>2. Ask the patient to clench their teeth while you palpate the masseter muscle (located at the angle of the jaw).</li><li>3. Using a soft object, lightly touch the patient's face in three distinct regions – the forehead, cheeks, and chin. Ask the patient to close their eyes during this test and confirm if they can feel the touch. This checks the sensory functions of the three branches of the trigeminal nerve.</li><li>4. With the patient's eyes open, gently touch the cornea with a wisp of cotton. This should stimulate a blink. Absence or delay of this reflex can denote a problem with the sensory limb of the trigeminal nerve.</li><li>5. Ask the patient to clench their teeth and move their jaw from side to side. Resistance to these movements can indicate a compromised trigeminal nerve.</li><li>6. Place your thumb on the patient's chin and lightly tap with a reflex hammer. A hyperactive response may point towards a central lesion.</li></ol>	
<b>Reminders</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Always provide clear instructions to the patient before initiating each test, and ensure they are comfortable and ready.</li><li>• Observe the patient's reactions closely during each test. Facial expressions, discomfort, or inability to perform a movement can be indicative of neurological issues.</li><li>• Stay patient during this process. Some responses may be subtle and need careful observation to detect correctly. Remember, accuracy is crucial in a cranial nerve assessment.</li></ul>	
<b>Additional notes</b>	