



Ng Teng Fong
General Hospital



Facial Nerve Study/ Blink Reflex Test

The Neurodiagnostic Laboratory provides a comprehensive range of diagnostic investigations to help doctors in the evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy, stroke, neuromuscular and neurological diseases. Neurology services are also provided at the Specialist Outpatient Clinics, Emergency Department, Intensive Care Unit and as an inpatient service.





What is the purpose of the test?

The test is to diagnose neuropathies* or disorders of the peripheral facial or trigeminal nerves, as well as lesions in the components of the brain, including those caused by brainstem strokes and multiple sclerosis. The purpose is to evaluate the electric response of the nerve or muscle which the nerve is attached to and determine if the nerve impulse is conducting normally, at a slow speed or not transmitting at all, suggesting damage to the nerve.

*Neuropathy: refers to any condition that affects the normal activity of the nerves.



What is the test about?

This test involves delivering an electric impulse to the nerve to measure the muscle response to electrical activation of the facial nerve. Recording electrodes are placed on the face and the responses are recorded simultaneously.

Before the test

- There is no need to fast. You may take a light meal before the test.
- Do not apply any cream, oil, lotion or moisturiser on your body.
- Wear loose-fitting clothing as this will allow easy examination of your hands and legs.

During the test

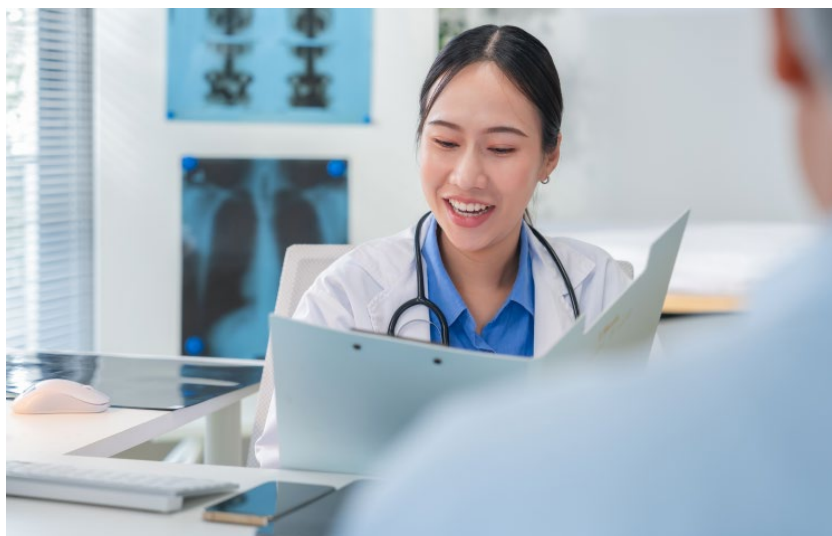
- A neurophysiology technologist will place some electrodes (metal disc plates) on your face.
- You may experience some discomfort when the electric current passes through your nerves.
- The procedure will take about 30 minutes.

Is the test safe? Are there any side effects?

The test is generally safe and there are no side effects.

When will I know the results?

A team of neurologists will review and interpret the studies. Your doctor will inform you of your test results during your next appointment.



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Notes

Ng Teng Fong General Hospital

1 Jurong East St 21, Singapore 609606

OneNUHS Hotline: (65) 6908 2222

OneNUHS General Enquiries: contactus@nuhs.edu.sg

OneNUHS Appointments: appointment@nuhs.edu.sg

www.ntfgh.com.sg



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more information

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