

Cranial Nerves V and VII Assessments

CNV is the trigeminal nerve, assessed through motor and sensory functions. Motor function is tested by feeling the muscles of mastication (the temporal and masseter muscles as the person clenches their jaw), and sensory function is tested using a cotton wisp applied to the person's face. CNVII is the facial nerve. Have the person animate (e.g. smile, frown) and look for facial symmetry and mobility.



PLAY PICMONIC

Cranial Nerve V - Trigeminal Nerve

[Brainstem Grabbing \(5\) Face with Three Gems](#)

Also known as the trigeminal nerve, CN V is the largest cranial nerve and has both motor and sensory functions.

Assess Temporal and Masseter Muscles

[Assess-man Temple and Massive-eater Muscles](#)

To test the temporal and masseter muscles, place your fingers against the person's temples and get them to clench their teeth. Next, place your fingers against the masseter muscles, and get them to clench their teeth again. The muscles should be equal bilaterally. Unilateral weakness occurs with lesions of the pons and cancer metastases to the skull.

Assess Light Touch Sensation

[Assess-man Light-bulb Touch](#)

Test a person's light touch sensation by using a cotton wisp against a person's forehead, cheeks, and chin bilaterally and, with their eyes closed. Ask the person to say "now" whenever touch is felt. This tests ophthalmic, maxillary and mandibular nerves. Decreased or unequal sensation may be noted with a stroke.

Cranial Nerve VII - Facial Nerve

[Brainstem \(7\) Lotion Dispenser with Face-lotion](#)

CN VII (facial nerve) is both a motor and sensory nerve that controls the muscles of facial expression and is responsible for taste sensations from the anterior 2/3 of the tongue among other functions.

Note Mobility and Facial Symmetry

[Mobile-phone and Facial Symmetry](#)