

Cranial Nerve Chart

Cranial Nerve		Major Functions		Assessment
Cranial Nerve I	Olfactory	Sensory	Smell	☐ Smell—coffee, cloves, peppermint
Cranial Nerve II	Optic	Sensory	Vision	☐ Visual acuity—Snellen chart (cover eye not being examined) Test for visual fields Examine with ophthalmoscope
Cranial Nerve III	Oculomotor	Sensory and Motor – Primarily Motor	Eyelid and eyeball movement	☐ Move eye up, down, and peripherally Test for accommodation Pupillary constriction Observe for ptosis of upper eyelid
Cranial Nerve IV	Trochlear	Sensory and Motor – Primarily Motor	Innervates superior oblique eye muscle Turns eye downward and laterally	☐ Inferior lateral movement of the eye
Cranial Nerve V	Trigeminal	Sensory and Motor	Chewing Face and mouth touch and pain	☐ Corneal reflex Sensation of the skin of the face (eyebrow, cheeks and chin) by using a wisp of cotton Chewing, biting, lateral jaw movements (move jaw side to side)
Cranial Nerve VI	Abducens	Sensory and Motor – Primarily Motor	Turns eye laterally Proprioception (sensory awareness of part of the body)	☐ Inferior lateral eye movements

Cranial Nerve VII	Facial	Sensory and Motor	Controls most facial expressions Secretion of ears and saliva	☐ Taste—anterior two thirds of tongue; sweet—sugar; salty; sour—lemon; bitter (rinse mouth between applications) Movement of forehead and mouth Raise eyebrows, show teeth, smile, and puff out cheeks
Cranial Nerve VIII	Vestibulocochlear (auditory)	Sensory	Hearing Equilibrium sensation	☐ Hearing, balance Weber and Rinne tests Otolaryngoscope
Cranial Nerve IX	Glossopharyngeal	Sensory and Motor	Taste Senses carotid blood pressure Muscle sense – proprioception, sensory awareness of the body	☐ Swallowing and phonation Taste—posterior one-third of tongue; see cranial nerve VII
Cranial Nerve X	Vagus	Sensory and Motor	Senses aortic blood pressure Slows heart rate Stimulates digestive organs Taste	☐ Sensations of posterior one third of tongue, throat. Gag reflex (stimulate the back of pharynx with a tongue blade) Swallowing and phonation
Cranial Nerve XI	Spinal Accessory	Sensory and Motor – Primarily Motor	Controls trapezius and sternocleidomastoid controls swallowing movements Muscle sense - proprioception	☐ Shoulder movement, shoulder shrug, head rotation—push against examiner's hand
Cranial Nerve XII	Hypoglossal	Sensory and Motor – Primarily Motor	Controls tongue movements Muscle sense - proprioception	☐ Tongue movement—protrude tongue, push tongue into the cheek

Cranial Nerve I	
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Cranial Nerve XII	

(Berman, Snyder, Kozier & Erb, 2008; Jarvis, 2008).