

APPENDIX: 13

TITLE: Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale

Updated: October 15, 2014

The Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale:

Facial Droop (Have the patient show teeth or smile):

- Normal – both sides of face move equally
- Abnormal – one side of face does not move as well as the other.



Left: Normal, Right: Stroke patient with facial droop (right side of face)

Arm Drift (Patient closes eyes and extends both arms straight out, with palms up, for 10 seconds):

- Normal – both arms move the same or both arms do not move at all (other findings, such as pronator drift, may be helpful)
- Abnormal – one arm does not move or one arm drifts down compared with the other



Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale

Abnormal Speech (Have the patient say “you can’t teach an old dog new tricks”):

- Normal – patient uses correct word with not slurring
- Abnormal – patient slurs words, uses the wrong words, or is unable to speak

Interpretation: If any 1 of these 3 signs is abnormal, the probability of a stroke is 72%

