

House-Brackmann Scale

House-Brackmann Scale

Date of assessment: _____ dd / mm / yyyy Patient information: _____

Assessor: _____

To use the scale, observe the patient's face at rest for asymmetry, then ask them to perform movements such as raising their eyebrows, closing their eyes tightly, smiling, and puffing out their cheeks. Compare both sides of the face and assign a grade from I (normal function) to VI (total paralysis).

Impairment:

- ☐ Grade I - Normal
- ☐ Grade II - Mild dysfunction (slight weakness, normal symmetry at rest)
- ☐ Grade III - Moderate dysfunction (obvious but not disfiguring weakness with synkinesis, normal symmetry at rest) Complete eye closure w/ maximal effort, good forehead movement
- ☐ Grade IV - Moderately severe dysfunction (obvious and disfiguring asymmetry, significant synkinesis) Incomplete eye closure, moderate forehead movement
- ☐ Grade V - Severe dysfunction (barely perceptible motion)
- ☐ Grade VI - Total paralysis (no movement)

This scale is used to evaluate facial paralysis at the nerve trunk and is NOT a descriptive scale to describe injury to specific distal facial nerve branches.

Additional notes:

House, J. W., & Brackmann, D. E. (1985). Facial nerve grading system. *Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery*, 93(2), 146-147.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/019459988509300202>