



OOO To Touch And
Feel Very Green
Vegetables AH

CRANIAL NERVES

Nerves that originate from the brain stem. They send information to & from various parts of the body.

CRANIAL NERVE	FUNCTION	TEST
I Olfactory	Responsible for the sense of smell.	Assess patency of nose; Ask client to occlude one nostril, close eyes and identify familiar smells
II Optic	Responsible for vision.	Inspect pupils, visual acuity (Snellen chart) + visual fields
III. Oculomotor	Controls most of the eye's movements, the pupil's constriction, and maintains an open eyelid.	Look up, down, & inward • Ask the client to follow your fi nger as you move it towards their face
IV. Trochlear	Controls downward & inward eye movement	Look up, down, & inward • Ask the client to follow your fi nger as you move it towards their face
V. Trigeminal	Responsible for sensation in the face and motor functions such as biting and chewing.	Clench teeth + light touch Palpate temporal muscles with clenched teeth (Motor sensation) Touch forehead, cheeks and chin with cotton wisp to test sensation (checks sensory function)
VI. Abducens	Controls the lateral rectus muscle, which turns the eye outward.	Look up, down, & inward • Ask the client to follow your fi nger as you move it towards their face
VII. Facial	Controls the muscles of facial expression, and functions in the conveyance of taste sensations from the anterior two-thirds of the tongue and oral cavity.	Ask client to do different facial expression (Frown, smile, raise eyebrows, close eyes, blow etc) & Test tongue by giving client sour, sweet, bitter, and salty substances
VIII. Vestibulocochlear	Responsible for hearing and balance.	Romberg test– ask clients to stand with feet together, arms at sides, eyes closed and hold position. Observe posture and balance Otoscope exam & Rinne & Weber Tests
IX. Glossopharyngeal	Controls taste to the posterior one-third of the tongue, and contributes to swallowing.	Gag reflex and swallowing: Touch pharyngeal wall and note gag reflex &Test tongue by giving client sour, bitter, & salty substance.
X. Vagus	Controls the heart, lungs, and digestive tract, along with sensation in the ear canal and parts of the throat.	Sensation coming from skin around the ear; Say “ahhh”: Assess deviation of uvula and symmetry of palate
XI. Accessory	Controls sternocleidomastoid and trapezius muscles, affecting head movement and shoulder elevation.	Ask the client to rotate their head & shrug their shoulders: Examine sternomastoid and trapezius muscles for equal size and strength bilaterallY
XII. Hypoglossal	Controls tongue movements for speech, food manipulation, and swallowing.	Inspect tongue & ask to stick tongue out: Observe lingual speech with words ‘light, tight, dynamite’ (l, t, d, n should be clear and distinct)

Cranial Nerve 3, 4 and 6 are assessed together: Check pupils for PERRLA; Assess eye movements; Determine nystagmus (back & forth oscillation of eyes), Determine ptosis (drooping of eyelid and strabismus (deviated gaze)