



Consultants in Neurology
Rowe Neurology Institute
8550 Marshall Drive, Suite 100
Lenexa, Kansas 66214
913-894-1500 or 800-753-6992

Blink Reflex Testing

Facial Nerve Conduction Study

Instructions

Your appointment is:

Day _____ Date _____ Time _____

1. **Let the technologist know if you have an implanted device such as a pacemaker or defibrillator!**
2. For adults, no special preparation is needed other than to make sure your skin is clean. Lotion and cosmetics can be used. You can eat and drink anything you want prior to test. If you take medications, you can take them as you usually do.
3. Both a Blink Reflex and a Facial Nerve Conduction Study involves taping several small electrodes on the skin around the eyes. An electrical stimulus is applied to a nerve in the eyebrow area for the Blink Reflex, while a nerve in the jaw area is stimulated for a Facial Nerve Conduction Study. The response to the stimulus is displayed visually on a computer screen. Several responses are obtained and printed out for the physician to evaluate and interpret.
4. Both tests provide information about the function of the cranial nerves tested, as well as the pathways in the brainstem. One or both tests are usually performed when there is unexplained numbness, pain, altered sensation or weakness in the face. Allow approximately 20 minutes to complete each test.
5. You will not feel anything from the recording electrodes; however the electrical stimulus feels like a small electric shock. Most people find the stimulus uncomfortable but tolerate it well. The test requires no medication or sedative, and you can resume your usual activities immediately upon completion of the test.
6. The results of your testing can be obtained at the follow-up appointment with your neurologist.

If the patient has confusion or cognitive issues, a family member or caregiver will be required to stay with the patient during the testing process.