

CVA Checklist

If Cincinnati Stroke Scale is POSITIVE (any one of the three tests shows abnormal findings), then assessment should include FAST-ED/Large Vessel Occlusion Screen. **LVO Screen by Paramedic Only**

Cincinnati Pre-hospital Stroke Scale

1. FACIAL DROOP: Have patient show teeth or smile.



Normal:
both sides
of the face
move equally



Abnormal:
one side of
face does not
move as well
as the other
side

2. ARM DRIFT: Patient closes eyes & holds both arms out for 10 sec.



Normal:
both arms
move the
same or both
arms do not
move at all



Abnormal:
one arm does
not move or
drifts down
compared to
the other

3. ABNORMAL SPEECH: Have the patient say "you can't teach an old dog new tricks."

Normal: patient uses correct words with no slurring

Abnormal: patient slurs words, uses the wrong words, or is unable to speak

Item	FAST-ED Score	Descriptions
Facial Weakness/Asymmetry		Ask the patient to smile or show teeth or gums
Symmetrical Movement	0	Facial movement is symmetrical
Asymmetrical Movement	1	Unequal smile or grimace, or obvious facial asymmetry
Arm weakness		Ask the patient to close eyes & lift the patient's arms together palms up to 90 degrees if sitting and 45 degrees if supine and ask them to hold the position for 10 seconds, then let go.
Normal	0	Both arms remain up >10 sec. or slowly drift down equally
Mild	1	One arm drifts down in <10 sec. but has antigravity strength
Moderate/Severe	2	Cannot maintain the arm against gravity and drops immediately
Speech Content		Ask the patient to say a common phrase such as "You can't teach an old dog new tricks." Have the patient name 3 common items.
Normal	0	Speech content normal AND names 2-3 items correctly (if speech is slurred but makes sense and naming is correct score as normal)
Abnormal	1	Speech content clearly abnormal OR names only 0-1 items correctly
Speech Comprehension		Ask the patient: "Show me two fingers"
Normal	0	Patient shows two fingers
Abnormal	1	Patient cannot understand/does not show two fingers
Eye deviation		Ask the patient to follow your finger while holding their head still
Absent	0	No deviation, eyes move to both sides equally
Partial	1	Patient has clear difficulty when looking to one side (left or right)
Forced Deviation	2	Eyes are deviated to one side and do not move to the other side (e.g. cannot follow finger)
Denial/Neglect-Weakness		Ask the patient: "Are you weak anywhere?"
Normal	0	The patient recognizes that they are weak
Abnormal	1	The patient is weak but does NOT recognize they are weak
Denial/Neglect		While holding the patient's weak arm, ask the patient: "Whose arm is this?"
Normal	0	Patient recognizes the weak arm belongs to them
Abnormal	1	Patient does NOT recognize the weak arm belongs to them

