

House Brackmann grading of facial nerve palsies

Grade	Clinical features
I: Normal function	Normal function in all areas
II: Mild dysfunction	Gross: Slight weakness on close inspection. Normal symmetry at rest. Motion: Forehead: Moderate to good function Eye: closure with minimal effort. Mouth: Slight asymmetry
III: Moderate dysfunction	Gross: Obvious but not disfiguring differences between the two sides. Normal tone and symmetry at rest Motion: Forehead: Slight to moderate movement Eyes: complete closure with effort Mouth: slight weakness with maximum effort
IV: Moderately severe dysfunction	Gross: Obvious weakness and/or disfiguring asymmetry. Normal symmetry and tone at rest. Motion: Forehead: No movements Eyes: Incomplete eye closure Mouth: Asymmetric with maximum effort
V: Severe dysfunction	Gross: Only barely perceptible motion Asymmetry at rest Motion: Forehead: None Eyes: Incomplete closure Mouth: Slight movements
VI: Paralysis	No movement of facial muscles

Atypical features (consider other diagnosis)

Reduced power of the limbs → consider stroke / Guillain Barré syndrome

Ear discharge → consider otitis media/ externa or cholesteatoma

Rash especially erythema migrans → Lyme's disease

Hearing loss with no clear cause → CPA tumour

Parotid mass → parotid infection or tumour

Bilateral facial nerve palsy, chronic cough and erythema nodosum → sarcoidosis