

### Introduction:

The Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale is a system used to diagnose a potential stroke in a pre-hospital setting. It tests three signs for abnormal findings which may indicate that the patient is having a stroke.

If any of these indications are present you must act FAST.

FAST is an acronym for:

F - Facial

A - Arms

S - Speech

T - Time which is critical

### References

Kothari RU, Pancioli A, Liu T, Brott T, Broderick J. "Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale: reproducibility and validity."

Ann Emerg Med 1999 Apr;33(4):373-8

### Facial Droop

**Normal:** Both sides of face move equally

**Abnormal:** One side of face does not move at all

Ask the Patient to Smile

### Arm Drift

**Normal:** Both arms move equally or not at all

**Abnormal:** One arm drifts compared to the other

Ask the Patient to raise both arms together. Does one drift downward?

Is one Arm weak or numb?

### Speech

**Normal:** Patient uses correct words with no slurring

**Abnormal:** Slurred or inappropriate words or mute

Is the speech slurred? Ask the Patient to repeat a simple sentence.

Is the sentence repeated correctly?

### Cincinnati

Interpretation: if any of these 3 signs is abnormal, the probability of a stroke is 72%

<p><b>Arm Drift</b> The patient closes eyes and extends both arms straight out, with palms up for 10 seconds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Normal - both arms move the same or both arms do not move at all (other findings, such as pronator drift, may be helpful)</li> <li>Abnormal - one arm does not move or one arm drifts downward</li> </ul>	<p><b>Facial Droop</b> The patient shows teeth or smile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Normal - both sides of the face move equally</li> <li>Abnormal - one side of the face does not move as well as the other side</li> </ul>
<p><b>Abnormal Speech</b> The patient repeats "you can't teach an old dog new tricks"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Normal - patient uses correct words with no slurring</li> <li>Abnormal - patient slurs words, uses the wrong words, or is unable to speak</li> </ul>	

### Time is Critical

**STROKE is an Emergency.**  
Every minute counts.  
**ACT F.A.S.T!**

<b>FACE</b>	Does one side of the face droop? Ask the person to smile.
<b>ARMS</b>	Is one arm weak or numb? Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?
<b>SPEECH</b>	Is speech slurred? Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence. Is the sentence repeated correctly?
<b>TIME</b>	If the person shows any of these symptoms, Call 911, we get to the hospital immediately.