



Case 1: Left Hemisphere Stroke Syndrome

Student Name: _____ Date of Test: _____

Prehospital scenario: "The patient is a 71-year-old man whose wife noticed he had weakness and speech difficulty. She was very upset and phoned 9-1-1."

In-hospital scenario: "The patient is a 71-year-old man who presents with weakness and difficulty with speech."

General notes to instructor: Speaking as the family member, provide answers to any questions that the patient can't answer. If the student asks for the time of symptom onset or last known well, answer, "About 20 minutes."

Vital signs	General notes to standardized patient
Pulse: 88/min Respiratory rate: 16/min Blood pressure: 205/100 mm Hg Oxygen saturation: 98% Blood glucose: 112 mg/dL	The patient has right face, arm, and leg weakness. The patient also has a left conjugate gaze deviation. In response to questions, he struggles to find words and uses related but incorrect words (eg, "five" instead of "fifty"). You should enunciate clearly (the patient has aphasia, not dysarthria).

sNIHSS-8: Left Hemisphere				
Category	Points	Status	Check if correct	Standardized patient instructions
1a. Level of consciousness (LOC) (Alert, drowsy, etc)	0 = 1 = 2 = 3 =	Alert Drowsy Stuporous Coma	<input type="checkbox"/>	You are awake and alert.
2. Best gaze (Eyes open; patient follows examiner's fingers or face)	0 = 1 = 2 =	Normal Partial gaze palsy Forced deviation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Left horizontal gaze deviation: Keep your eyes deviated to the left throughout the examination (the best way to simulate this is to stare at something on the left side of the room). Do not follow the student's fingers to your right beyond the point of looking straight ahead (midline).
3. Visual (Introduce visual stimulus/ threat to patient visual field quadrants. Cover one eye and hold up fingers in all 4 quadrants.)	0 = 1 = 2 = 3 =	No visual loss Partial hemianopsia Complete hemianopsia Bilateral hemianopsia	<input type="checkbox"/>	Right visual field deficit: You cannot see student's fingers in your right visual field (both upper and lower) from both eyes.
4. Facial palsy (Show teeth, raise eyebrows, and squeeze eyes tightly shut.)	0 = 1 = 2 = 3 =	Normal Minor Partial Complete	<input type="checkbox"/>	Right facial droop: You elevate the left side of your smile only (the best way to simulate this is to think about not moving the right side of the face as you are smiling with the left). You are able to raise both eyebrows and squeeze both eyes shut.
6a. Motor leg left (Elevate extremity to 30° and score drift/movement. Count to 5 out loud, and use fingers for visual cue.)	0 = 1 = 2 = 3 = 4 = NT =	No drift Drift Can't resist gravity No effort against gravity No movement Amputation, joint fusion (explain)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keep your left leg elevated.
6b. Motor leg right (Elevate extremity to 30° and score drift/movement. Count to 5 out loud, and use fingers for visual cue.)	0 = 1 = 2 = 3 = 4 = NT =	No drift Drift Can't resist gravity No effort against gravity No movement Amputation, joint fusion (explain)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Right leg weakness: Let your right leg fall when it is released. You can move the leg a little but not lift it up.

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sNIHSS-8: Left Hemisphere

Category	Points	Status	Check if correct	Standardized patient instructions
9. Best language (Name items, describe picture, and read sentences. Don't forget glasses if they normally wear them.)	0 = 1 = 2 = 3 =	No aphasia Mild to moderate aphasia Severe aphasia Mute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Expressive aphasia: Use minimal speech and incorrect words (eg, "five" instead of "fifty") frustrated with the difficulty you are having expressing yourself.
10. Dysarthria (Evaluate speech clarity by patient reading or repeating words on list.)	0 = 1 = 2 = NT =	Normal articulation Mild to moderate dysarthria Near to unintelligible or worse Intubated or other physical barrier	<input type="checkbox"/>	Normal articulation: You are unable to read sentences or repeat words, but you can clearly articulate similar-sounding words (eg, "trucks" for "tricks").
Total score (0-24): 10			<input type="checkbox"/>	
What stroke syndrome is this consistent with? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Left hemisphere <input type="checkbox"/> Right hemisphere <input type="checkbox"/> Brainstem <input type="checkbox"/> Cerebellar <input type="checkbox"/> Not a stroke syndrome				
Prehospital: In your region, where would you transport this patient?				
In-hospital: In your hospital, where would this patient go next?				
Instructor comments:				
Test results: Check PASS for passing or NR for needs remediation:			<input type="checkbox"/> PASS	<input type="checkbox"/> NR
Instructor initials: _____ Instructor number: _____ Date: _____				

Abbreviation: sNIHSS, shortened National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale; NT, not testable.



Case 2: Right Hemisphere Stroke Syndrome

Student Name: _____ Date of Test: _____

Prehospital scenario: "The patient is a 72-year-old woman whose husband noticed she had weakness. He was very upset and phoned 9-1-1."

In-hospital scenario: "The patient is a 72-year-old woman who presents with weakness."

General notes to instructor: Speaking as the family member, provide answers to any questions that the patient can't answer. If the student asks for the time of symptom onset or last known well, answer, "About 20 minutes."

Vital signs	General notes to standardized patient
Pulse: 91/min Respiratory rate: 16/min Blood pressure: 178/92 mm Hg Oxygen saturation: 98% Blood glucose: 121 mg/dL	The patient has left face, arm, and leg weakness. The patient also has a right conjugate gaze deviation and neglect on the left side.

sNIHSS-8: Right Hemisphere				
Category	Points	Status	Check if correct	Standardized patient instructions
1a. Level of consciousness (LOC) (Alert, drowsy, etc)	0 = 1 = 2 = 3 =	Alert Drowsy Stuporous Coma	<input type="checkbox"/>	You are awake and alert.
2. Best gaze (Eyes open; patient follows examiner's fingers or face)	0 = 1 = 2 =	Normal Partial gaze palsy Forced deviation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Right horizontal gaze deviation: Keep your eyes deviated to the right throughout the examination (the best way to simulate this is to stare at something on the right side of the room). Do not follow the student's fingers to your left beyond the point of looking straight ahead (midline).
3. Visual (Introduce visual stimulus/threat to patient visual field quadrants. Cover one eye and hold up fingers in all 4 quadrants.)	0 = 1 = 2 = 3 =	No visual loss Partial hemianopsia Complete hemianopsia Bilateral hemianopsia	<input type="checkbox"/>	Left visual field deficit: You cannot see student's fingers in your left visual field (both upper and lower) from both eyes.
4. Facial palsy (Show teeth, raise eyebrows, and squeeze eyes tightly shut.)	0 = 1 = 2 = 3 =	Normal Minor Partial Complete	<input type="checkbox"/>	Left facial droop: You elevate the right side of the face only (the best way to simulate this is to think about not moving the left side of the face as you are smiling with the right). You are able to elevate both eyebrows and squeeze both eyes shut.
6a. Motor leg left (Elevate extremity to 30° and score drift/movement. Count to 5 out loud, and use fingers for visual cue.)	0 = 1 = 2 = 3 = 4 = NT =	No drift Drift Can't resist gravity No effort against gravity No movement Amputation, joint fusion (explain)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Left leg weakness: There is no movement in your left leg, and you are unaware of any deficit (neglect).

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sNIHSS-8: Right Hemisphere

Category	Points	Status	Check if correct	Standardized patient instructions
6b. Motor leg right (Elevate extremity to 30° and score drift/movement. Count to 5 out loud, and use fingers for visual cue.)	0 = 1 = 2 = 3 = 4 = NT =	No drift Drift Can't resist gravity No effort against gravity No movement Amputation, joint fusion (explain)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keep your right leg elevated.
9. Best language (Name items, describe picture, and read sentences. Don't forget glasses if they normally wear them.)	0 = 1 = 2 = 3 =	No aphasia Mild to moderate aphasia Severe aphasia Mute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Say words correctly without slurring.
10. Dysarthria (Evaluate speech clarity by patient reading or repeating words on list.)	0 = 1 = 2 = NT =	Normal articulation Mild to moderate dysarthria Near to unintelligible or worse Intubated or other physical barrier	<input type="checkbox"/>	Your speech is normal, and you articulate clearly.
Total score (0-24): 9			<input type="checkbox"/>	
What stroke syndrome is this consistent with? <input type="checkbox"/> Left hemisphere <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Right hemisphere <input type="checkbox"/> Brainstem <input type="checkbox"/> Cerebellar <input type="checkbox"/> Not a stroke syndrome				
Prehospital: In your region, where would you transport this patient?				
In-hospital: In your hospital, where would this patient go next?				
Instructor comments:				
Test results: Check PASS for passing or NR for needs remediation:			<input type="checkbox"/> PASS	<input type="checkbox"/> NR
Instructor initials: _____ Instructor number: _____ Date: _____				

Abbreviation: sNIHSS, shortened National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale; NT, not testable.



Case 3: Brainstem Stroke Syndrome

Student Name: _____ Date of Test: _____

Prehospital scenario: "The patient is a 58-year-old man who awakens in the morning with severe dizziness and weakness. He vomited, awakening his wife. She noticed that his speech was garbled and phoned 9-1-1."

In-hospital scenario: "The patient is a 58-year-old man admitted for atrial fibrillation who awakened in the morning with severe dizziness and weakness. He vomited, awakening his wife. She noticed that his speech was garbled and called for help."

General notes to instructor: Speaking as the family member, provide answers to any questions that the patient can't answer. If the student asks for the time of symptom onset or last known well, answer, "I don't know, but he was OK when he went to bed," because the patient woke up with symptoms.

Vital signs	General notes to standardized patient
Pulse: 87/min Respiratory rate: 16/min Blood pressure: 162/85 mm Hg Oxygen saturation: 98% Blood glucose: 107 mg/dL	The patient reports dizziness and nausea. The patient has crossed signs with left face weakness and right arm and leg weakness. The patient also has a left conjugate gaze deviation and dysarthria (slurring of speech).

sNIHSS-8: Brainstem				
Category	Points	Status	Check if correct	Standardized patient instructions
1a. Level of consciousness (LOC) (Alert, drowsy, etc)	0 = 1 = 2 = 3 =	Alert Drowsy Stuporous Coma	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sleepy/drowsy: You are lethargic and not alert, but you respond to repeated verbal stimuli.
2. Best gaze (Eyes open; patient follows examiner's fingers or face)	0 = 1 = 2 =	Normal Partial gaze palsy Forced deviation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Left horizontal gaze deviation: Keep your eyes deviated to the left throughout the examination (the best way to simulate this is to stare at something on the left side of the room). Do not follow the student's fingers to your right beyond the point of looking straight ahead (midline).
3. Visual (Introduce visual stimulus/ threat to patient visual field quadrants. Cover one eye and hold up fingers in all 4 quadrants.)	0 = 1 = 2 = 3 =	No visual loss Partial hemianopsia Complete hemianopsia Bilateral hemianopsia	<input type="checkbox"/>	Normal: See the student's fingers in all visual fields.
4. Facial palsy (Show teeth, raise eyebrows, and squeeze eyes tightly shut.)	0 = 1 = 2 = 3 =	Normal Minor Partial Complete	<input type="checkbox"/>	Left facial droop: Elevate the right side of the smile only (the best way to simulate this is to think about not moving the left side of your face as you are smiling with the right).
6a. Motor leg left (Elevate extremity to 30° and score drift/movement. Count to 5 out loud, and use fingers for visual cue.)	0 = 1 = 2 = 3 = 4 = NT =	No drift Drift Can't resist gravity No effort against gravity No movement Amputation, joint fusion (explain)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keep left leg raised.

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sNIHSS-8: Brainstem				
Category	Points	Status	Check if correct	Standardized patient instructions
6b. Motor leg right (Elevate extremity to 30° and score drift/movement. Count to 5 out loud, and use fingers for visual cue.)	0 = 1 = 2 = 3 = 4 = NT =	No drift Drift Can't resist gravity No effort against gravity No movement Amputation, joint fusion (explain)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Right leg weakness: Let your right leg drop when it's released. Move the leg a little but don't lift it up.
9. Best language (Name items, describe picture, and read sentences. Don't forget glasses if they normally wear them.)	0 = 1 = 2 = 3 =	No aphasia Mild to moderate aphasia Severe aphasia Mute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dysarthria: Say words correctly but with slurred speech so that they are difficult to understand. The best way to simulate slurred speech is to try not to move your tongue as you are speaking and repeating words.
10. Dysarthria (Evaluate speech clarity by patient reading or repeating words on list.)	0 = 1 = 2 = NT =	Normal articulation Mild to moderate dysarthria Near to unintelligible or worse Intubated or other physical barrier	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dysarthria: Say words with slurred speech so that they are difficult to understand. The best way to simulate slurred speech is to try not to move your tongue as you are speaking and repeating words.
Total score (0-24): 9			<input type="checkbox"/>	
What stroke syndrome is this consistent with?				
<input type="checkbox"/> Left hemisphere <input type="checkbox"/> Right hemisphere <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brainstem <input type="checkbox"/> Cerebellar <input type="checkbox"/> Not a stroke syndrome				
Prehospital: In your region, where would you transport this patient?				
In-hospital: In your hospital, where would this patient go next?				
Instructor comments:				
Test results: Check PASS for passing or NR for needs remediation:			<input type="checkbox"/> PASS	<input type="checkbox"/> NR
Instructor initials: _____ Instructor number: _____ Date: _____				

Abbreviation: sNIHSS, shortened National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale; NT, not testable.