



Appendix A: Cincinnati Stroke Scale

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

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

A similar tool for recognizing stroke warning signs is available for patients from the [Heart & Stroke Foundation](#) called Stroke Signs.

Reference:

Kothari RU, Pangoli A, Liu T et al. Cincinnati Pre-hospital Stroke Scale: reproducibility and validity. Acad Emerg Med. 1999;33:373-80.