

# Facial nerve paresis

## General:

The acute facial paresis is a polyetiologically caused complete or incomplete motor and sensory neuropathy, occurring on one or both sides of the face and neck muscles (innervated by the 7<sup>th</sup> cranial nerve) as well as sensorically by taste qualities of the tongue on the respective affected side. Furthermore a disturbance of tear secretion as well as hearing disturbances such as hyperacusis can be observed (lost stapedius reflex). Bell's paralysis: acute isolated one-sided peripheral facial nerve paresis of unknown cause (idiopathic facial paralysis). Ramsay Hunt syndrome: due to Herpes zoster oticus (VZV) or Herpes zoster (VZV).

Examinations: CBC, CRP, ESR, antibodies or PCR (borreliosis, VZV, HSV), CSF diagnostics (specific antibody indices, see below CSF diagnostics).

Differential diagnostics facial nerve paresis:

## Causes:

<b>Infections</b>	Virus infections: VZV (Herpes zoster) or HSV-1.
	Rare viral infections: EBV, CMV, Parvo-B19, HIV, enteroviruses, mumps v., measles v., rubella virus, adeno and influenza viruses.
	Bacterial infections: acute otitis media, mastoiditis, cholesteatoma, dentogenic infections, meningitis and sepsis, Borrelia burgdorferi.  In 20-40% of FP in children borreliae are causative. In approx. 5-15% of borreliosis FP is observed. In 30-50% of patients with CNS borreliosis FP occurs. Very rare pathogens: leptospirae, Mycoplasma pneumoniae, Bartonella henselae, rickettsiae.
<b>Noninfectious inflammatory diseases</b>	Kawasaki syndrome, systemic Lupus erythematoses, inflammatory pseudotumor of N. facialis, sarcoidosis, mostly on both sides, Morbus Still, amyloidosis.
<b>Neoplasia</b>	Parotid tumor, neurinoma, meningioma, rhabdomyosarcoma (middle ear), Morbus Paget, leukemia, metastases of other neoplasias.
<b>Traumata</b>	Birth trauma, cranial trauma, ear operations, barotrauma.

<b>Other causes</b>	Pregnancy: in the context of hypertension or preeclampsia. Hyperthyroidism, diabetes mellitus, hypertension, hypertriglyceridemia, hyperlipoproteinemia, infantile cortical hyperostosis (Caffey Silverman syndrome), hemophilia, familial recurring facial paralysis, cyclosporine side effects.
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For complete list of laboratory test offered at Freiburg Medical Laboratory, please visit <http://www.fml-dubai.com/parameter-listings/>