

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 7th 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:

Infections	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.
Noninfectious inflammatory diseases	Kawasaki syndrome, systemic Lupus erythematoses, inflammatory pseudotumor of N. facialis, sarcoidosis, mostly on both sides, Morbus Still, amyloidosis.
Neoplasia	Parotid tumor, neurinoma, meningioma, rhabdomyosarcoma (middle ear), Morbus Paget, leukemia, metastases of other neoplasias.
Traumata	Birth trauma, cranial trauma, ear operations, barotrauma.

Other causes	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/>