

Guidelines for the Neurologic Examination in Patients with Altered Level of Consciousness

A. Mental Status

1. Level of arousal
2. Response to auditory stimuli (including voice)
3. Response to visual stimuli
4. Response to noxious stimuli (applied centrally and to each limb individually)

B. Cranial Nerves

1. Response to visual threat
2. Pupillary light reflex
3. Vestibulo-ocular reflexes
 - a. Oculocephalic (doll's eyes) reflex
 - b. Ice water (cold caloric) reflex
4. Corneal reflex
5. Gag reflex
6. Respiratory drive (spontaneous, ventilator-assisted/controlled)

C. Motor Function

1. Voluntary or purposeful movements
2. Reflex withdrawal
3. Spontaneous, involuntary movements
4. Tone (resistance to passive manipulation)

D. Reflexes

1. Deep tendon reflexes
2. Plantar responses

E. Sensation (to noxious stimuli in limbs)