

# House-Brackmann score

The [House-Brackmann score](#) is a score to grade the degree of nerve damage in a [facial nerve palsy](#). The measurement is determined by measuring the upwards (superior) movement of the mid-portion of the top of the eyebrow, and the outwards (lateral) movement of the angle of the mouth. Each reference point scores 1 point for each 0.25 cm movement, up to a maximum of 1 cm. The scores are then added together, to give a number out of 8.

The score predicts recovery in those with Bell's palsy.

The [House-Brackmann score](#) carries the name of the Dr John W. House and Dr Derald E. Brackmann, otolaryngologists in [Los Angeles](#), California, who first described the system in [1985](#) <sup>1)</sup>.

It is one of a number of facial nerve scoring systems, such as Burres-Fisch, Nottingham, Sunnybrook, and Yanagihara.

Of these, the Nottingham scale has been identified as possibly being easier and more reproducible.

A modification of the original House-Brackmann score, called the "Facial Nerve Grading Scale 2.0" (FNGS2.0) was proposed in 2009.

Grade-Description-Measurement-Function %-Estimated function %

I-Normal-8/8-100-100

II-Slight-7/8-76-99-80

III-Moderate-5/8-6/8-51-75-60

IV-Moderately severe-3/8-4/8-26-50-40

V-Severe-1/8-2/8-1-25 20

VI-Total-0/8-0-0

<sup>1)</sup>

House JW, Brackmann DE. Facial nerve grading system. Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg 1985;93(02):146-147

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