

FAST Stroke Test: Smile, Wave, Speak

The F.A.S.T. test helps spot symptoms of stroke. It stands for:

Face: Ask for a smile. Does one side droop?

Arms: Ask the person to wave with both arms. Does one side drift down?

Speech: Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence like “You can’t teach an old dog new tricks”. Do they have trouble or slur words?

Time is critical. **If you answer Yes to *any one* of these questions, call 911 now.**

Kothari RU, Pancioli A, Liu T, Brott T, Broderick J. “Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale: reproducibility and validity.” [Ann Emergency Medicine 1999 Apr;33\(4\):373-8.](#)