

# Corneal Reflex



**Corneal reflex** is mediated by the reflex arc that consists of exteroceptors of the cornea, the afferent ophthalmic nerve (1st branch of CN V) n. V. and the efferent from cranial nerve 7 innervating the orbicularis oris muscle m. orbicularis oculi.<sup>[1]</sup> Reflex is elicited by a gentle touch of cotton wool on the cornea. We approach the obliquely from the side, while the patient looks to the other side (this avoids a defensive reaction mediated by sight). Blinking occurs physiologically after touching the cornea with the cotton wool.<sup>[2]</sup>

The following common mistakes should be avoided during the examination:

- The cotton swab should be on the conjunctiva instead of the cornea;
- The touch of the cotton ball should be fast enough to induce a blink.<sup>[3]</sup>

► Video - Korneální reflex (Centrum elektronického vzdělávání 1.LF UK) (<https://el.lf1.cuni.cz/neuronorma/default/video/video8.html>)

Complementary electrophysiological examination can distinguish between supra nuclear and peripheral localisation of a lesion.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Links

### Related articles

- Trigeminal nerve

## Reference

1. AMBLER, Zdeněk – BEDNAŘÍK, Josef, et al. *Klinická neurologie*. 2. edition. Praha : Triton, 2008-. ISBN 9788073871574.
2. ROTH, Jan – FIALA, Ondřej – RŮŽIČKA, Evžen. *Neurologické vyšetření - norma* [online]. [cit. 2012-11-22]. <<https://el.lf1.cuni.cz/neurologie>>.
3. FULLER, Geraint. *Neurologické vyšetření snadno a rychle*. 1. edition. Praha : Grada, 2008. ISBN 9788024719146.