

EXAMINATION OF THE CRANIAL NERVES

I - Olfactory

Test environment

Ask if the patient has noticed any abnormality of their sense of smell or taste. If they have, test each nostril in turn.

Test procedure

1. Ask the patient to sniff from a bottle containing something that smells (eucalyptus, benzoin etc). Do not use ammonia.
2. Ask them to close one nostril with a finger
3. Slowly bring in the open bottle from a distance, ask them to sniff repeatedly and say when they can smell something. Do not expect them to be able to name the smell.

Test interpretation

This test examines the patency of the nasal airways, the olfactory nerve endings and the integrity of the olfactory nerve.

- *Fast exam -omit*