



Physical Examination

Last Updated: September 27, 2018

Brain Death Determination

1. Coma

- Noxious stimuli without motor response (except spinal reflexes)

2. Absent Brainstem Reflexes

- Absent pupillary response to light bilaterally
- Absent oculocephalic reflex (doll's eyes)
- Absent oculovestibular reflex (caloric reflex test bilaterally)
- Absent corneal reflex
- Absent facial muscle contraction to noxious stimulus
- Absent gag and cough reflex

3. Apnea Test

- Absent respiratory drive despite CO₂ challenge (pCO₂>60mmHg)

4. Vital signs

- Core body temperature 36-37°C (normothermia)
- SBP ≥ 90mmHg
- PO₂ >200mmHg and PaCO₂ ~40mmHg → before discontinue ventilator use
- Verified absence of pharmacologic agent simulating brain death

Reflex Testing Scale

Grade	Description
4+	Hyperactive with clonus
3+	Hyperactive

2+	Normal
1+	Hypoactive
0	Absent

Strength Testing Scale

Grade	Description
5/5	Normal Strength (movement against gravity with resistance)
4/5	Movement against gravity with slight (4-) / moderate (4) / strong (4+) resistance
3/5	Movement against gravity only
2/5	Movement with gravity eliminated
1/5	Visible/palpable muscle contraction
0/5	No contraction

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to be Reviewed
by the Atlas Team





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