

Reflex Muscle Testing Techniques

By Kat Miller

(Also see *Improving Reflex Muscle Testing Accuracy* article under FREE Downloads at <http://www.ehdef.com> for tips on improving accuracy of reflex muscle testing)

Following are a few techniques for performing reflex muscle testing. You may need to practice to perfect the testing methods:

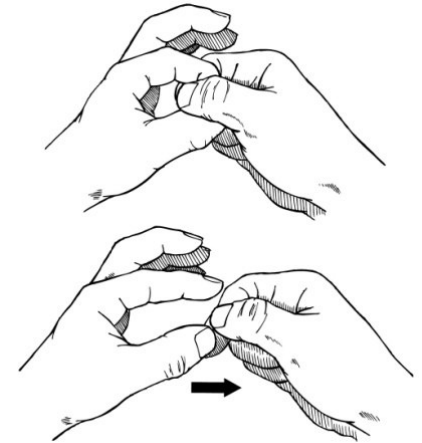
1. **STANDING TILT TEST**

- a. Stand up
- b. Relax your whole body particularly around the ankles
- c. Ask your question
- d. Yes = tilt forward
- e. No = tilt backward



2. **INTERLOCKING CIRCLES**

- a. Make a circle with the thumb and index finger of each hand, interlocking them (like two links of a chain)
- b. Hold light tension in both circles
- c. As you ask questions, try to pull the circle made with your dominant hand through the circle made with your nondominant hand
- e. Yes = the circle stays closed and the circles stay interlocked
- f. No = the nondominant hand circle allows the dominant hand circle to pull out



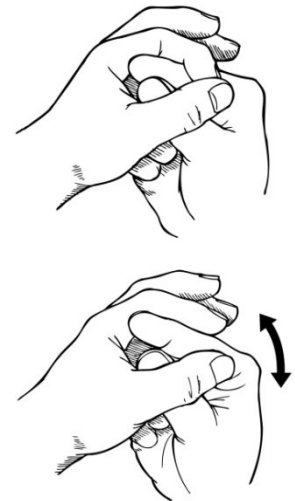
If the circle stays closed on no, you need to teach your body what "no" is. To do this:

- a. Say "no" and as you say "no" purposely open the circle of the nondominant hand very wide and pull the circle of the dominant through the circle
- b. Repeat this procedure several times
- c. After repeating this several times, try holding your fingers closed while saying "no" and see if there are changes
- d. If there is no change, keep "teaching" your body with steps a through c

Eventually you should see a big difference between yes and no.

3. **CIRCLE AND PRESS**

- Make a circle with the thumb and index finger of your non-dominant hand
- Insert thumb & index fingers of you other hand into this circle from the bottom
- Hold light tension in the circle
- As you ask questions, press the fingers inserted into the circle outward
- Yes = the circle stays closed and holds the press fingers inside
- No = the circle opens



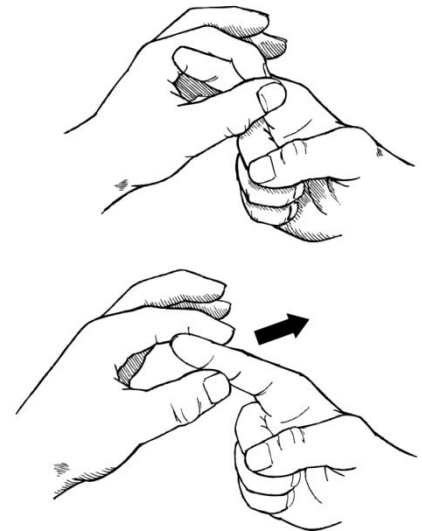
If the circle stays closed on no, you need to teach your body what "no" is. To do this:

- Say "no," purposely open circle wide and spread your fingers inside the circle outward
- Repeat this procedure several times
- After repeating this several times, try holding your fingers closed while saying "no" and see if there are changes
- If there is no change, keep "teaching" your body by repeating steps a through c

Eventually you should see a big difference between yes and no.

4. **CIRCLE AND POINT**

- Make a circle with the thumb and index finger of your non-dominant hand
- Insert the index finger of your other hand into the circle from either the top or bottom
- Hold light tension in the circle
- As you ask questions, pull the index finger through the circle
- Yes = the circle stays closed and holds the index pointer inside
- No = the circle allows the index pointer to pull out



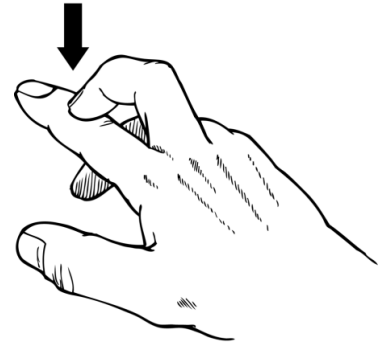
If the circle stays closed on no, you need to teach your body what "no" is. To do this:

- Say "no" and as you say "no" purposely open the circle very wide and pull the index finger through the circle
- Repeat this procedure several times
- After repeating this several times, try holding your fingers closed while saying "no" and see if there are changes
- If there is no change, keep "teaching" your body with steps a through c

Eventually you should see a big difference between yes and no.

5. ONE-HANDED

- Place the pad of the middle finger of one hand on the top of the nail of the index finger on the same hand
- The index finger is straight with the middle finger bending to touch it
- Ask questions & press down on the index finger with the middle finger
- Yes = the index finger stays straight
- No = the index finger bends downward



This one also may take some "teaching" the body "no." To do this:

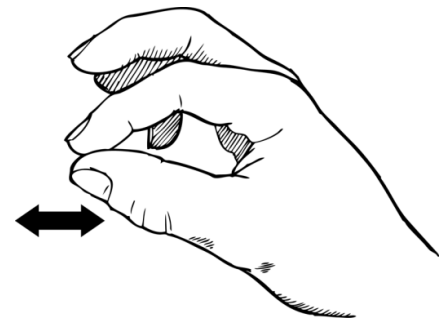
- Say "no" and allow the middle finger to easily press the index finger down
- Repeat several times
- After repeating this several times, try holding strong when saying "no" and if you are not weak keep practicing

Eventually you should see a big difference between yes and no.

6. FINGER RUB

(It may take practice to recognize the difference between smooth and sticky.)

- Lightly touch the pads of the index finger and thumb of one hand together
- As you ask questions, lightly slide the pads across each other
- Yes = the pads slide very smoothly, there is no resistance
- No = the pads are sticky against each other, there is resistance
- This can also be done using both hands rubbed against each other

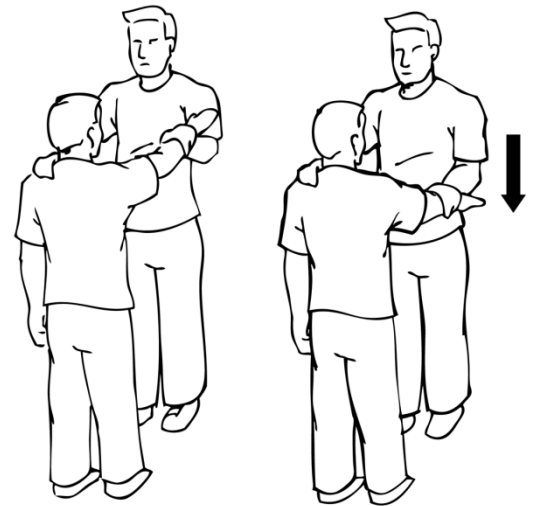


7. SWALLOW

- Ask a yes/no question.
- Try to swallow.
- Yes = easy to swallow
- No = cannot swallow or very difficult to swallow
- Test:
 - State your name ("I am ____"), then try to swallow (it should be easy to swallow).
This is the "yes" swallow.
 - Lie about your name ("I am John Smith"), then try to swallow (it should be difficult or impossible to swallow).
This is the "no" swallow.

8. MUSCLE TESTING ANOTHER PERSON

- a. Have person stand facing you with one arm straight out in front of them at a slight downward angle from the shoulder. As long as the arm is straight, you can have them put at any angle from parallel to the floor to nearly perpendicular. The closer to perpendicular with the floor the angle the more the deltoid is isolated and the easier it is to tell if it is weak.
- b. To keep the person square to you and their arm straight in front of them, place your hand on the opposite shoulder from the arm being tested. (If the right arm is the one you're testing, place your right hand on their left shoulder.)



Having the arm extended in front rather than to the side is preferred because:

1. Holding arm extended to the side can make rotator cuff vulnerable to injury.
 2. Holding arm extended to the side also includes lung meridian in every test.
- c. Place your hand on their extended arm, just above the wrist.
Placing your hand on their hand or wrist can make their wrist vulnerable to injury.
 - d. Ask them to resist when you press down.
You may need to remind them to "hold strong."
 - e. Say "yes" and right after saying yes press down on their arm while they resist. You should feel a solid "lock" in the muscle.
 - f. Say "no" and right after saying "no" press down on their arm while they resist. There should be a weakness there, an inability for the muscle to "lock."
Anything from a "floating" arm that wavers up and down and the muscle never locks to an extreme weakness, where the arm just drops away is considered weak.
 - g. Once you get a feel for yes/no (strong/weak), then you can begin to ask questions and recognize the yes/no or strong/weak.

For more information use a search engine for a phrase like:

"Reflex Muscle Testing"

"Muscle Reflex Testing (MRT)"

"Muscle Response Testing"

"Applied Kinesiology (AK)" is the first and most popular technique to use manual muscle testing (MMT)

"Bio-feedback technique"