

1. Muscles affected
 - a. Orbicularis Oculi
 - i. Closes and protrudes lips, as in kissing; compresses lips against teeth; and shapes lips during speech.
 - b. Masseter
 - i. Elevates mandible, as in closing mouth.
 - c. Zygomaticus major
 - i. Draws angle of mouth superiorly and laterally, as in smiling.
 - d. Platysma
 - i. Draws outer part of lower lip inferiorly and posteriorly as in pouting; depresses mandible.
 - e. Risorius
 - i. Draws angle of mouth laterally, as in grimacing.
2. Pathophysiology
 - a. Bell palsy is thought to result from compression of the seventh cranial nerve at the geniculate ganglion. The first portion of the facial canal, the labyrinthine segment, is the narrowest; most cases of compression occur in the labyrinthine segment. Due to the narrow opening of the facial canal, inflammation causes compression and ischemia of the nerve. The most common finding is a unilateral facial weakness that includes the muscles of the forehead.
3. Other Symptoms
 - a. Hypersensitivity to sound in the affected ear (hyperacusis)
 - b. Loss of the sense of taste on the front two-thirds of the tongue
 - c. Inability to close the eye on the affected side of the face

References:

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