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Activity 2

Answer the questions below in the discussion forum:

Your patient recently had a viral infection and now she cannot move the muscles on the right side of her face. In addition, she is experiencing a loss of taste and dry mouth and she cannot close her right eye. Which cranial nerves have been affected by the viral infection?

The right facial (VII) nerve has been damaged due to the viral infection (more commonly referred to as the shingles); and she is suffering from Bell's palsy which is defined as damage to the facial (VII) nerve and as a result she cannot move the muscles in the right side of her face. This nerve also controls contraction of skeletal muscles of the face, loss of taste as well as conveying sensory impulses from many of the taste buds on the tongue, decreased salivations, and the loss of the ability to close her right eye. The symptoms line-up with the effects of an affected right facial (VII) nerve.