

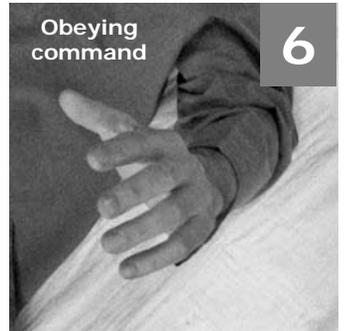


# Determining Best Motor Response

## Step 1

Ask the patient to '**obey a command**' that requires a specific response, such as 'please wiggle the fingers of your LEFT hand'.

*NB: Avoid asking patient just to squeeze your hand as a response may just represent reflex action.*



If appropriate response is not seen, go to next step

## Step 2

Rub one of the superior orbital margins (eyebrow) while applying firm pressure. Patients able to **localize pain** will respond by moving a hand above the chin.



*NB: Intoxicated patients will often require considerable and sustained stimuli. If appropriate response is not seen, go to next step.*

## Step 3

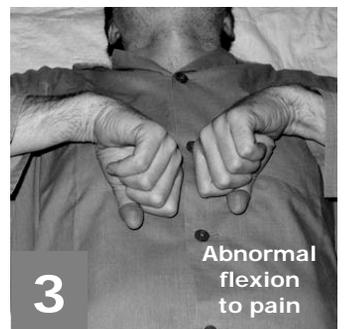
Apply firm pressure to a fingernail bed and look for one of the responses shown on the right.



**Withdrawal from pain** of the limb by flexion at the elbow and external rotation at the shoulder joint.

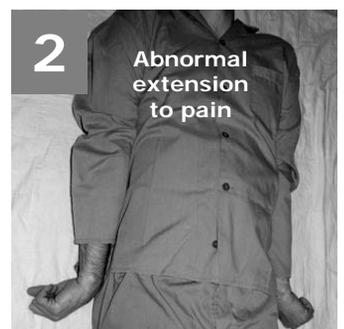


**Abnormal flexion to pain** of the elbow and wrist (usually both arms) with internal rotation of the shoulder and simultaneous extension of the legs. This is also known as 'decorticate response'.



*NB: Rubbing the sternum is not a good way to determine best motor response as it may not help to distinguish between 'localizing pain' and 'abnormal flexion'. It may also leave bruise marks.*

**Abnormal extension to pain** of (usually both) arms and legs. This is also known as 'decerebrate response'.



If no response is seen, record 'no motor response' (1)