

Horner syndrome and Cocaine

Action of Cocaine

Cocaine blocks reuptake of norepinephrine that is normally released from nerve endings. In a sympathetic lesion, norepinephrine is not released.

Effects of Cocaine on Horner's pupil

little or no effect

Effects of Cocaine on Normal pupil

dilation

Test procedure

- Place not more than 2 drops of cocaine hydrochloride 10% in both eyes (2% for infants and children, 4% and 5% can also work for adults)
- Measure anisocoria 50-60 minutes later
- 0.8 mm or greater anisocoria after the cocaine is highly suggestive of Horner syndrome

False Positive result

pupil held by membrane, scar or aberrant innervation [Image](#)

[syndrome](#), [drugs](#)

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