

# Neuromuscular Facial Retraining:

## Successful Strategies for Challenging Cases

Gaye W. Cronin, OTD, OTR/L

### Faculty

Gaye W. Cronin is a master clinician specializing in vestibular and facial nerve rehabilitation having treated more than 30,000 patients suffering from vestibular or facial nerve disorders. She serves as the director of Vestibular & Facial Nerve Atlanta. Dr. Cronin has experienced a high rate of success in the elimination and reduction of facial paralysis, vertigo and balance dysfunctions, and improvement of function, safety and mobility through rehabilitation. She has successfully applied these evidenced based treatments with a variety of diagnoses and ages. Dr. Cronin has published extensively in medical and therapy journals and has conducted numerous national and international instructional courses for occupational therapists, physical therapists, audiologists and physicians. She received her Bachelor of Science and Masters degrees from the Medical College of Georgia, and her Doctorate of Occupational Therapy from the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences.

**Disclosure: Financial:** Gaye Cronin receives an honorarium from Education Resources.  
**Non-Financial:** She has no non-financial relationships to disclose.

### About this Live Webinar

Learn successful neuromuscular facial retraining therapy strategies and techniques for treating patients with facial nerve disorders (even the most challenging cases). Recognize facial nerve disorders by etiologies, symptoms and manifestations including: Bell's palsy, Ramsay Hunt syndrome, facial nerve tumors, acoustic neuroma, Herpes zoster and simplex, infections, head trauma, post COVID-19, Guillian-Barre' syndrome, Miller-Fisher syndrome, Melkerson Rosenthal, birth (congenital and acquired), post-surgical reanimation, Lyme's disease, and toxicity. Assessments of facial nerve grading scales, bilateral surface electromyography, video application assessments (APP), synkinesis and muscle tone will be presented. This course offers the rehabilitation clinician an additional frame of reference for treatment that can positively affect patient's function, eyelid mobility and eye protection, perception, expression, speech, self-care, motor skills/tone, facial symmetry, self-image, quality of life, and improvement of abnormal movement patterns, synkinesis and hemifacial spasm. Participants will then apply this new information through case studies and practice sessions.

### Objectives

- 1 Describe neuromuscular facial retraining process
- 2 Apply anatomy/physiology of Cranial Nerve VII (facial) for facial function, dysfunction, and neuroplasticity
- 3 Recognize etiologies that cause facial paralysis and prognosis
- 4 Describe facial assessments of grading scales, tone, synkinesis and surface EMG
- 5 Demonstrate evidenced based treatment techniques for muscles, expression, function and eye care
- 6 Demonstrate understanding of indications and contraindications of treatments and modalities learning, school performance, coordination and movement tolerances

### Audience

PT, OTs, SLPS, and assistants as well as Dietitians, Audiologists, Athletic Trainers, Special Educators working with children and adults diagnosed with facial paralysis.

## Schedule – Day 1 - 5:40pm-9:00pm EST (US)

**5:40-6:00 Webinar Registration/Zoom Course Opens**  
**6:00-9:00 Facial Nerve Disorders**

- Symptoms, incidences and manifestations
- Determining need for intervention

### **Cranial Nerve VII (Facial)**

#### **Anatomy/Physiology**

- Facial nerve path from brainstem to face
- Facial nerve branches (auricular, temporal, buccal, zygomatic, mandibular, cervical)
- Innervation of 23 paired muscles, lacrimal glands, saliva glands
- Motor and sensory components of nerve

#### **Cranial Nerve VII (Facial) Function and Dysfunction**

- Sensory/motor components
- Muscle function of each nerve branch
- Sunderland's degrees of facial nerve dysfunction and description (neuropraxia, axonotmesis, neurotmesis, perineurotmesis, nerve transection) and indication for rehab
- Nerve recovery and regeneration process

#### **Aberrant Regeneration and Hyperkinesia Syndromes:**

- Description and indication for clinicians - dos and don'ts
- Hemifacial spasm and synkinesis
- Dystonia
- Blepharospasm
- Facial Nerve Etiologies and Diagnoses:
- Indications for clinicians - recognition and treatment
- Bell's palsy
- Ramsay Hunt (shingles, chicken-pox)
- Infections (Herpes simplex/zoster, COVID-19, encephalitis, viral inflammatory)
- Tumors (malignant and benign) schwannomas, meningiomas, parotid, acoustic neuroma, other
- Trauma
- Syndromes (Guillain Barre', Miller-Fisher, Melkerson Rosenthal)
- Central nervous system (stroke, lesion)
- Birth (congenital/acquired)
- Toxicity/Lyme's disease
- Other

## Schedule – Day 2 5:40pm-9:00pm EST (US)

**5:40-6:00 Webinar Registration/Zoom Course Opens**  
**6:00-9:00 Evaluation of Facial Nerve Disorders**

- Facial Nerve Grading Scales and Disability Index
- Dual channel surface electromyography (EMG)
- Video cases, observations, photos
- Assessment of tone, synkinesis (muscular, tearing and gustatory)
- Hilger nerve assessment
- Other (pain, edema, sensory, lip excursion, self-care, auditory/vestibular, visual, oral)

## Schedule – Day 3 5:40pm-9:00pm EST (US)

**5:40-6:00 Webinar Registration/Zoom Course Opens**  
**6:00-9:00 Evidence Based Treatment Interventions for Problem Specific Disorders**

- Functional facial exercises
- Mirror and video feedback
- Eye care and Bell's phenomenon
- Dual channel surface EMG
- Synkinesis/hemifacial spasm and assessing need for Botox neurochemodenervation
- Place and release techniques
- Vibration, massage, manual therapy, stretches, heat/cold, taping
- Oral motor and speech
- Post surgical re-animation and indications for rehab
- Education/reassurance

#### **Case Reports**

- Evidenced Based Results of Treatments Demonstrated

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## WEBINAR DATES AND TIMES

**December 1, 8, and 15, 2021**

**5:40 pm EST • 4:40 pm CST • 3:40 pm MST • 2:40 pm PST (US)**

Registration is for both days. Zoom log-in instructions and course materials will be emailed/added to your ERI account 5-7 days prior to the first date of the webinar.



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**Neuromuscular Facial Retraining/Cronin:**  
 **August 11, 18, and 25, 2021**

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