# Orthopedics

**OSCE - Peripheral Nerves Examination** 



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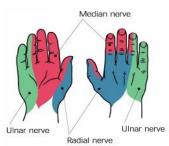
Slides 431 team work Sessions' Notes Arabic Words Team Notes Books' notes **Important Other Sources** 

**Orthopedics OSCE** 

# **Peripheral Nerves Examination**

(Upper Limb):

**Quick anatomy review:** (for your knowledge and to help you better understand the examination (2)



	Muscles innervated	Primary action
Median nerve (C5-T1)	A) Forearm: - Anterior compartment except 1.5 muscles by ulnar n (flexor carpi ulnaris and ulnar half of the flexor digitorum profundus)	- Flex wrist and all digits - Pronation
	B) Hand: - Thenar muscles: (Opponens pollicis) - Lumbricals digits (2 & 3)	<ul><li>Opposition of thumb</li><li>Flex MP and extend PIP and DIP of digits 2&amp; 3</li></ul>
Ulnar nerve (C8-T1)	A) Forearm: - Flexor carpi ulnaris and ulnar half of the flexor digitorum profundus B) Hand: - Hypothenar muscles - 8 Interossei muscles (palmar &dorsal) - Lumricals (digits 4 & 5) - Adductor pollicis	<ul> <li>Flex wrist (weak) and digits 4</li> <li>&amp;5</li> <li>Opposition of little finger</li> <li>Abduction and adduction of the fingers+ flex MP+ extend IP.</li> <li>Flex MP and extend PIP and DIP of digits 4&amp; 5</li> <li>adduct the thumb</li> </ul>
Radial nerve (C5-T1)	Posterior compartment muscles of the arm and forearm	- Extend MP, wrist and elbow

#### Median nerve

- Muscles wasting: Thenar muscle

- Redness, scars

1- Look: - Deformity: **Ape hand** deformity Ask the patient to close his eyes and tell you if he felt your fine touch (with cotton ball) in: 2- Feel: The volar aspect of index finger and ask if it is the same sensation on both (test sensory) (comment e.g. bilateral symmetrical sensation on both sides) 3-Move: Ask the patient to do the following: Thumb abduction or Thumb opposition to (test motor) <u>little finger</u> (**not** to index for OK sign) Test the power of opposition by asking him to resist your attempt to break the 4- Power opposition circle. (comment e.g. bilateral symmetrical power)

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#### Ulnar nerve

Redness, scars

**1- Look:** Muscles wasting: <u>hypothenar muscle</u>

Deformity: claw hand.

**2- Feel:** Ask the patient to close his eyes and tell you if he felt your fine touch in:

(test sensory) The volar aspect of little finger.

**3- Move:** (test motor) Fingers abduction.

**4- Power**Test the power of abduction by asking him to resist your attempt to adduct

his fingers.

Forment's sign Ask the patient to hold a paper firmly between their thumb and index then you try to pull the paper, normally he will be able to maintain a hold on the paper without having to flex his thumb. However, with

ulnar nerve palsy, the patient will experience difficulty maintaining a hold and will compensate by flexing the (flexor pollicis longus) of the thumb to

Normal

Froment's positive

maintain grip pressure causing a pinching effect

\* Radial nerve:

5- Special test

- Redness, scars

**1- Look:** - Muscles wasting

- Drop rest sign

**2- Feel:** Ask the patient to close his eyes and tell you if he felt your fine touch in:

(test sensory) <u>Dorsal aspect of the first web-space.</u>

**3-Move:** (test motor) Wrist extension + metacarpal joint extension.

**4- Power** Test the power of extension by asking him to resist your attempt to flex his

wrist.

✓ To complete the examination mention that you will test capillary refill and take radial pulses.

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• (lower limb)

#### **❖** Femoral nerve

- Redness, scars

- Muscles wasting: quadriceps muscles. (Don't forget to expose the thighs)

**2- Feel:** Ask the patient to close his eyes and tell you if he felt your fine touch in: the

(test sensory) <u>medial side of leg and foot</u> = femoral (saphenous nerve)

**3-Move:** (test motor) Ask the patient to do: knee extension

**4- Power** Test the power of extension by asking him to resist your attempt to flex the

knee.

### **Common peroneal nerve**

- Redness, scars

**1- Look:** - Muscles wasting: **Anterior leg muscles** (observe from side and front)

- Deformities: **Drop foot** 

**2- Feel:** Ask the patient to close his eyes and tell you if he felt your fine touch in: the

(test sensory) dorsal aspect of foot.

**3-Move:** (test motor) Ask the patient to do: Ankle dorsiflexion

4- Power Test the power of dorsiflexion by asking him to resist your attempt to push

his ankle down (bring it back to neutral position)

## **\*** Tibial nerve

- Redness, scars

**1- Look:** - Muscles wasting: **Calf muscles** (observe from side and back)

- Deformities

**2- Feel:** Ask the patient to close his eyes and tell you if he felt your fine touch in:

(test sensory) <u>the plantar aspect of foot.</u>

Ask the patient to do: Ankle plantar flexion (or walking on

3-Move: (test motor)

Ask the patient to do: Affikie plantal flexion (of walking on toes)

**4- Power**Test the power of flexion by asking him to resist your attempt to push his

ankle up, bring it back to neutral position.

✓ To complete the examination mention that you will test capillary refill and take pulses "D.P – P.T".

# Vascular exam:

Look: Thin, shiny, hairless skin. Ulcers. Pallor.

Feel: temperature

**Special tests:** 

i. Capillary refill (normal is <2 seconds).

ii. Pulses.