continued

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continued

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Integrating the Neuro Exam Into Daily Practice

Rosanne Thomas PT MS PhD

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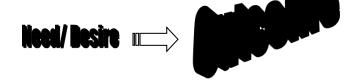
Why bother?

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The Nervous System Guides Movement

Integrates:



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Why Bother

- Pieces of the puzzle
- How and why your patient moves the way he does/ or doesn't
- Time constraints prevent testing everything for every patient
- Need to understand all testing options to be able to effectively choose and prioritize
- Facilitates correlation between pathology, impairments, functional limitations and goals

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Objectives 1 - 5

- 1. Identify the scientific basis for the efficacy of neurological examination procedures.
- 2. Identify selection of sensory and motor neurological screening based on patient need and complexity.
- 3. Accurately perform an appropriate and prioritized sensory examination for a given patient diagnosis.
- 4. Describe the relationship between sensory input and motor output.
- 5. Assess reflex integrity and dysfunctional implications.

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Objectives 6 - 10

- 6. Appropriately evaluate tone and articulate one of its possible contributions to movement dysfunction.
- 7. Differentiate superficial vs. deep and simple vs. complex sensory requirements during the examination process.
- 8. Distinguish movement dysfunction secondary to CNS, PNS, and peripheral dysfunction.
- Identify the neuroscience correlation to examination findings and articulate the anatomical and/or physiological significance of deficits identified during the neurological examination.
- 10.Describe findings of sensory and motor testing to maximize efficient and accurate identification of impaired sensory and motor function and correlate to functional deficits.

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Parts of a Neuro Exam

- 1- Sensory
- 2- Motor
- 3- Tone
- 4- Motor Control
- 5- Balance
- 6- Coordination

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Parts of a Neuro Exam

This webinar focuses on:

- 1- Sensory
- 2- Motor
- 3- Tone
- 4- Motor Control
- 5- Balance
- 6- Coordination

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Webinar Parts

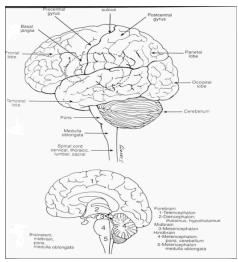
- Nervous System Review of relevant body structure and function
- Sensory Exam
 - Detailed explanation
 - Video
 - Documentation
- Motor Exam
 - Detailed explanation
 - Video
 - Documentation

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Nervous System Review

Central Nervous System has 3 parts:

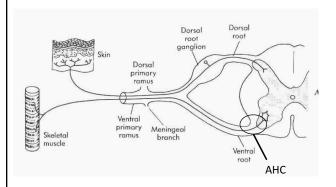


- Brain
- · Brain Stem
- Spinal Cord Anterior Horn Cell (motor)

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Peripheral Nervous System



- •Cranial nerves (12)
- •Spinal nerves (31)
- •Ganglions, peripheral nerves
- Receptors

Note: AHC = AMN (Alpha Motor Neuron) = LMN (Lower Motor Neuron)

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Nervous System Function-

Efferent CNS – process info, make adjustments

Away from the CNS

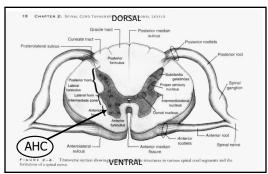
PNS – bring info to/from CNS

Afferent Toward the CNS

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CNS/PNS Division at Spinal Cord Level



Spinal nerve & nerve root – most proximal parts of the PNS

Nerve root = that portion of the nerve that connects it to the spinal cord. Made up of Anterior (ventral) root

Posterior (dorsal) root

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CNS/PNS Division at Spinal Cord Level Cervical spinal cond matter canal matter can



Dermatome

Definition:

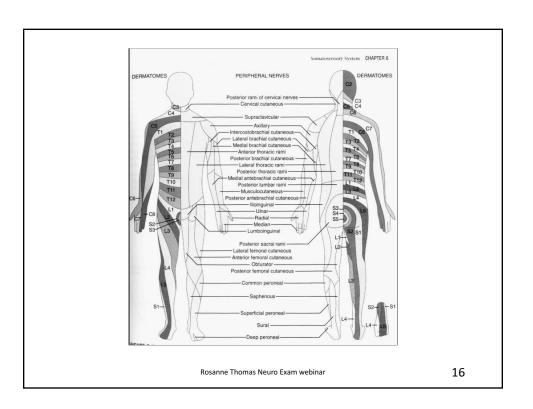
The area of skin supplied by a single nerve root

- Varies greatly person to person
- Often a great deal of overlap

Dermatomes are supplied by RECEPTORS

•Afferents to a particular spinal cord segment

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Classification of Sensory System

- Location of receptor
- Type of receptor

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Sensory Receptor Location

Superficial

Deep

Combined or Cortical

- 1-Superficial (exteroceptors)
 - •Responsible for superficial sensation
 - •Receive stimulus from external environment via **skin** and subcutaneous tissue
 - •Responsible for perception of pain, temperature, light touch/pressure

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- 2 Deep sensations (proprioceptors)
 - •Receive stimulus from mm, tendons, ligaments, joints, fascia
 - •Responsible for position sense, kinesthesia (mov't) sense, vibratory sense
- 3- Combined or Cortical Sensations
 - •Require info from *both* exteroceptors & proprioceptors
 - •Require intact function of cortical sensory association areas
 - •Responsible for stereognosis, 2 point discrimination, graphesthesia, tactile localization, texture recognition

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Classification of Sensory System

Location of receptor

Type of receptor

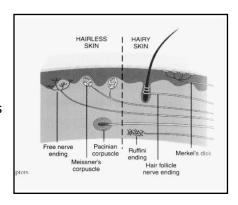
- Mechanoreceptors
- •Thermo-
- Nocioceptors (pain)
- •Chemo-
- Photic (electromagnetic)

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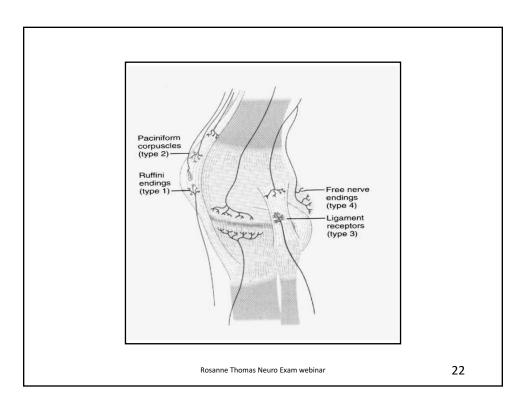


Types of mechanoreceptors/proprioceptors:

- 1- Ruffini Endings
- 2- Pacinian Corpuscles
- 3- Golgi-Mazzoni Corpuscles
- 4- GTO
- 5- Muscle Spindle



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Ruffini Endings

Expanded free nerve ending in fibrous layer of the joint capsule

- •Greatest distribution in PROXIMAL joints
- •Monitors direction & speed of capsular stretch & joint position changes
- •Low-threshold, *slowly* adapting
- Strong postural receptors

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Pacinian Corpuscles

Greatest distribution in DISTAL joints

Responds to high velocity changes in joint position

Low-threshold, rapidly adapting

Active for brief period – onset of joint movement, sudden changes

Greater conduction velocity than Ruffini

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Golgi-Mazzoni Corpuscles (Krause)

Present along inner surface of joint capsule

Responds to perpendicular compression of capsule – not stretching

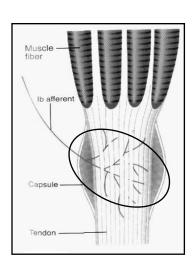
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Golgi Tendon Organ (GTO)

Located near musculotendon junction
Responds to contraction of mm
Stimulus (-) agonist,

(+) antagonist



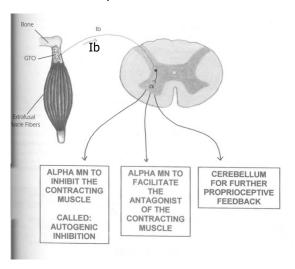
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GTO info travels to 3 places via SC:

Agonist mm contracts:

- •→ + GTO in agonist mm
- •GTO sends sens info via Ib→ synapse in DH with interneurons
- •Interneuron has 3 outputs

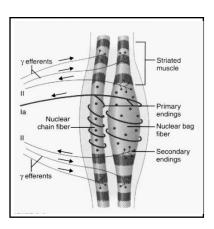


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Muscle Spindle

- •Located within mm fibers
- Slowly adapting
- •Monitors amount of change in length of mm
- Motor as well as sensory components
- •Sensory (1A, II afferent) info on rate & amount of change in mm length
- •Motor intrafusal fibers via gamma motoneurons
- •Add to production of smooth, controlled, coordinated mov/t



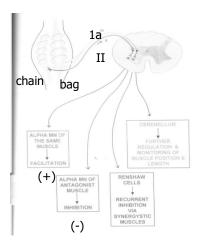
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Muscle Spindle Actions:

Extrafusal fiber stretches:

- •→ intrafusal fiber stretch
- •→ 1a fibers fire→respond to rate of str & Δ in mm length
- •→ II fibers fire→ respond to length only



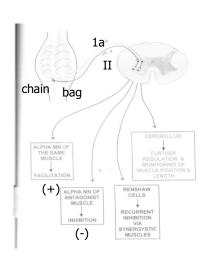
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Muscle Spindle Actions:

Info goes to 4 places via SC:

- •AMN of agonist mm→ +
- •AMN of antagonist mm→ --
- •Interneurons → recurrent inhib via synergist mm
- •Cerebellum → further reg & monitoring of mm position & length



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Tracts

All sensory info enters (afferent) the spinal cord through the dorsal roots

From there – fiber differences:

- 1- large sensory fibers (Beta type A fibers) immediately enter dorsal column of spinal cord and ascend the cord
- 2- smaller fibers (type C and delta type A) as well as lateral collaterals from large fibers travel up and down before synapsing in dorsal horn cell that gives rise to ventral & lateral spinal thalamic tracts

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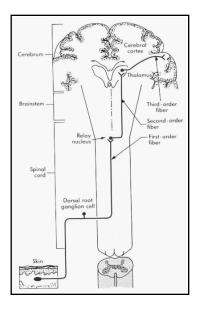
31

Primary 1. Receptor activation 2. Afferent fibers travel to the Spinal Cord (SC) 3. Fibers enter SC through the dorsal root 4. Travel in SC – either ipsilateral or contralateral 5. Synapse and cross 6. Travel to the Thalamus 7. Travel to the Sensory Cortex Rosanne Thomas Neuro Exam webinar 32



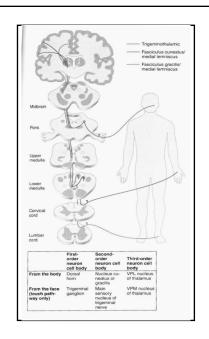
Two Basic Pathways of transmission to Cortical Centers

- 1- Dorsal column/ medial lemniscal discriminative touch
- 2- Anterolateral (spinal thalamic) pain, temperature, crude touch



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Dorsal Column

Primary fibers = receptors to spinal cord dorsal horn. Travel ipsilaterally to

Secondary fibers = DCN of medulla, CROSS travel in medial lemniscus to VPN of thalamus

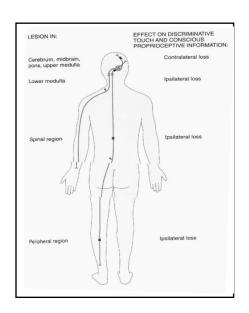
Tertiary fibers = thalamus to primary sensory cortex

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Dorsal Column

- •Large, heavily myelinated fibers
- Fast
- •High degree of spatial orientation of fibers with respect to their origin on body surface



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Anterolateral/ Spinal thalamic tract

Mainly small, some not myelinated

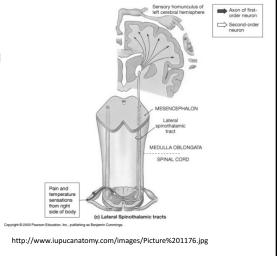
Lower velocities

Poorly spatially oriented

Primary fibers = receptors to spinal cord dorsal horn. Travel up/down before synapsing on dorsal horn cells. CROSS in the SC, travel (lateral to DC)

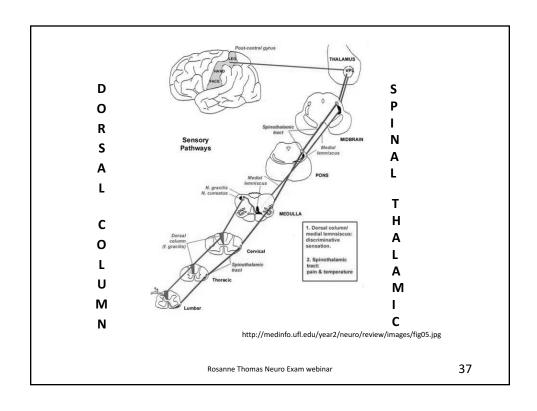
Secondary fibers to thalamus

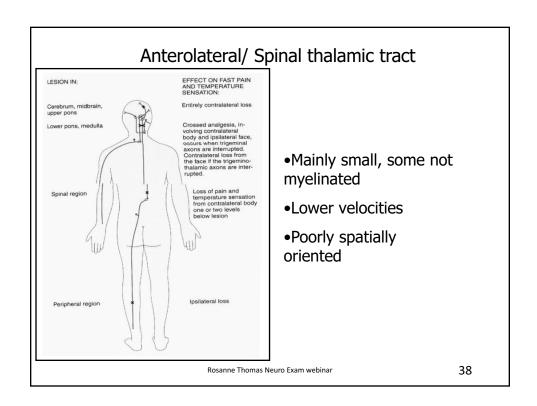
Tertiary = from thalamus to primary sensory cortex



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Therefore:

- •Sensory info that must be transmitted rapidly with high degree of specificity (location, pressure,etc)
- •Fine gradations of intensity
- Discretely localized
- *Mechanoreceptive* sensation alone



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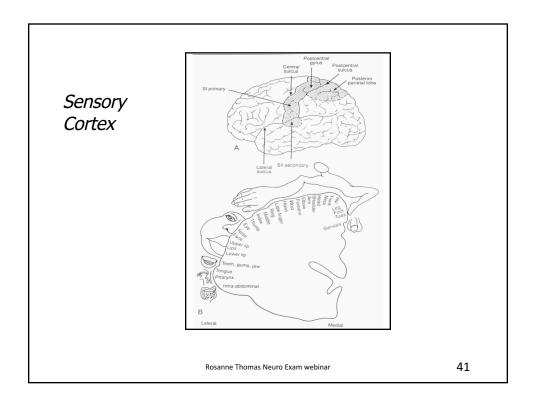
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- •Sensory info slow, not localized
- •Special capability to transmit broad spectrum of sensory modalities
- •Pain, warmth, cold, crude touch sensations



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Parts of a Neuro Exam

- 1- Sensory
- 2- Motor
- 3- Tone
- 4- Motor Control
- 5- Balance
- 6- Coordination

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Sensory Testing

Purpose:

Aid localization of the lesion

One side of body?

Within a dermatome?

Within a peripheral nerve distribution?

Disruption along a spinal pathway?

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Assumptions with sensory testing:

- 1- Patient can understand instructions
- 2- Patient can communicate responses
- 3- Patient can cooperate by keeping eyes closed

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Parts of Sensory Testing

- 1- Ability to **PERCEIVE** sensory modalities
 - determines if a pathway for a particular sense is functioning
- 2- Ability to **INTEGRATE** or interpret a sensory stimulus
 - -determine if the patient can use info from a sensory stimulus in a meaningful way
 - -NOT done if perception testing reveals deficits

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Grading of Sensory Responses:

- Absent
- Diminished intact/slowed
- Normal
- Hypersensitive

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Sensory Testing Technique:

- 1- Demo with patient's eyes open
- 2- Actual test with patient's eyes closed
- 3- Compare
 - •Right/Left
 - Proximal/Distal
 - •Same/Different

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Sensation Types

Superficial

Light touch, superficial pain, thermal

Deep

Deep pressure, deep pain, position sense, passive motion sense

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Superficial Sensation

- 1- Light touch
- 2- Superficial pain
- 3- Thermal

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Superficial Sensation

- 1- Light touch
- 2- Superficial pain
- 3- Thermal

Light touch – Discriminative touch

- -Transmitted via Dorsal Column
- -Usually done within dermatomes
- -Patient indicates if does or does not perceive stimulus
- -Note if diminished, normal, hypersensitive

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Video – Light Touch

- UE Light touch
- LE Light touch

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Superficial Sensation

- 1- Light touch
- 2- Superficial pain Pin prick
- 3- Thermal Hot/cold
 - Transmitted via Anterolateral/ Spinal Thalamic
 - Usually done within dermatomes
 - Patient indicates if does or does not perceive stimulus
 - Note if diminished, normal, hypersensitive

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Video - Pain/ Sharp

- UE Pain/Sharp
- LE Pain/Sharp

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Documentation for Superficial Sensory Testing

- Sensory Modality Light touch? Pain? Temperature?
- Area tested UE, LE, trunk? R or L?
- List the dermatomes tested UE C5 T2, LE L3 S1
- Examples:

Light touch intact BUE C5 – T2 dermatomes

Pain intact BLE L3 – S1 except hyper LLE L4 dermatome

Light touch & pain diminished RUE C6,7 dermatome

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- 1- Deep pressure
- 2- Deep pain
- 3- Position sense/ Akinesthesia
- 4- Passive motion sense
- 5- Vibration

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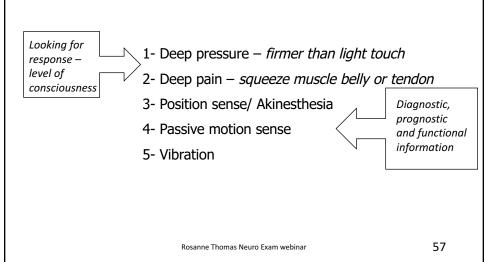
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Deep Sensation

- 1- Deep pressure *firmer than light touch*
- 2- Deep pain squeeze muscle belly or tendon
- 3- Position sense/ Akinesthesia
- 4- Passive motion sense
- 5- Vibration

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Deep Sensation

- 1- Deep pressure
- 2- Deep pain
- 3- Position sense/ Akinesthesia
- 4- Passive motion sense
- 5- Vibration

Position sense/Kinesthesia - ability to perceive motion, position of joint

- -large vs small movement
- -Stop & wait for patient to imitate

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- 1- Deep pressure
- 2- Deep pain
- 3- Position sense/ Akinesthesia
- 4- Passive motion sense
- 5- Vibration

Passive MOTION sense

PT moves involved extremity while patient mirrors mov't with eyes closed

Simultaneous with test mov't

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Video – Deep Sensation

- UE Position Sense
- UE Passive Motion Sense
- LE Position Sense and Passive Motion Sense

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- 1- Deep pressure
- 2- Deep pain
- 3- Position sense/ Akinesthesia
- 4- Passive motion sense
- 5- Vibration

Vibrate tuning fork against a bony prominence styloid process, wrist, epicondyle, malleolus Allow patient time to perceive stimulus Patient tells when vibration stops

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Video – Deep Sensation

- UE Position Sense
- UE Passive Motion Sense
- LE Position Sense and Passive Motion Sense
- Vibration

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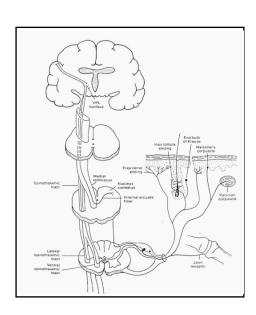


Documentation for Deep Sensory Testing

- Position sense record number of trials correct
 - Position sense R index finger correct 4/4 trials
 - Position sense L ankle correct ¾ trials with delayed responses
- Passive motion sense specify joints involved
 - Passive motion sense B wrists intact but slow
- Vibration specify bony landmark used & both measures
 - Vibration intact L malleolus for both fast and slow responses

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Overview

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Integration of Sensory Stimulation

Requires functioning of Cerebral Cortex

- Done ONLY once the ability to perceive sensation has been determined
 - Not done if the patient can't perceive sensation accurately

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Integration of Sensory Stimulation

Types:

- 1- 2 point discrimination
 - -compare right vs left
 - -varies by location thigh, hand, finger
 - -start apart & decrease space
- 2- Localization of touch
 - ask patient to point to an area

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- 3- Extinction phenomenon-
 - 2 stimuli simultaneously applied
 - opposite sides body
 - proximal/distal on same extremity
 - proximal/distal on same side of the body
 - 4- Stereognosis
 - 5- Graphesthesia

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Video – Sensory Integration

- Two point Discrimination
- Alternate Two point Discrimination
- Point localization
- Extinction Phenomenon

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SENSORY EXAM	TEST	Normal? (L vs. R)	Neuroanatomical localization		
LIGHT TOUCH	Test at key dermatomal	(L v3. it)	localization		
Upper extremity	C4 acromioclavicular joint C5 lateral antecubital fossa		Superficial cutaneous mechanoreceptors;		
	proximal to elbow crease C6 thumb C7 middle finger		Large, myelinated peripheral nerve fibers;		
	C8 little finger T1 medial antecubital fossa proximal to medial epicondyle		dorsal column/medial lemniscus		
Lower extremity	T2 apex of axilla L2mid-anterior thigh L3 medial femoral condyle of				
	knee L4 medial malleolus L5 dorsum of foot, third toe				
	S1 lateral heel S2 popliteal fossa of knee S3 lschial tuberosity				
	S4-5 perianal area				
PAIN/SHARP	Test at key dermatomal points				
Upper extremity Lower extremity	C4 acromioclavicular joint C5 lateral antecubital fossa proximal to elbow crease		Superficial cutaneous free nerve endings and nociceptors;	Diffuse peripheral neuropathy: decreased perception to pain affecting distal extremities more than proximal (stocking/glove hypoaesthesia). Focal mononeuropathies (single nerve disease) shows more localized	
	C6 thumb C7 middle finger C8 little finger T1 medial antecubital fossa		Small, lightly myelinated peripheral nerves;		
	proximal to medial epicondyle T2 apex of axilla		Contralateral	deficits.	
	L2mid-anterior thigh L3 medial femoral condyle of knee		spinothalamic tract		
	L4 medial malleolus L5 dorsum of foot, third toe		_		

Sensory Exam Overview continued

SENSORY EXAM	TEST	Normal? (L vs. R)	Neuroanatomical localization	Clinical comments
Lower extremity	S2 popliteal fossa of knee			
	S3 Ischial tuberosity			
	S4-5 perianal area			
PROPRIOCEPTION	Digit up & down, right/left			
Upper extremity	Index finger		Deep mechanoreceptors	Proprioceptive and/or vibration deficits usually associated with failed Romberg, imbalance,
Lower extremity	Ankle		Large, myelinated	ataxic/steppage gait. B12
	Big Toe		peripheral nerve fibers;	disease and syphilis affect only these
VIBRATION			7	modalities. Loss of vibration
			dorsal	poor prognostic indicator of
Upper extremity	Styloid process of wrist		column/medial lemniscus	stroke recovery.
	Epicondyle of elbow		=	
Lower extremity	Big Toe		1	
	Malleolus			

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Parts of a Neuro Exam

- 1- Sensory
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Motor Testing

Reflexes

Superficial

Deep Tendon

Myotomes

GMT

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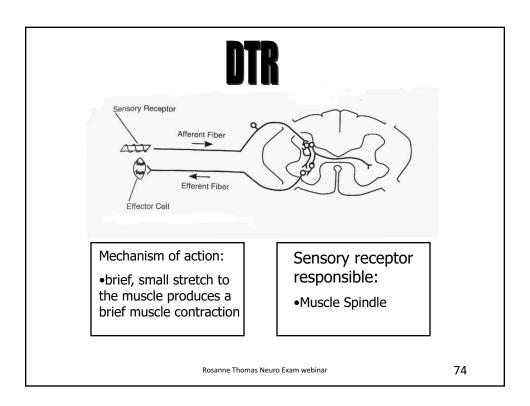
Reflexes

Testing divided into 2 parts:

- 1- Deep tendon reflexes
- 2- Superficial

Indicates that the reflex arc is intact & capable of functioning at specific levels

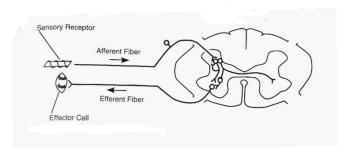
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UMN vs LMN

What makes a hyperreflexive response?



LMN lesion - below AHC

- hyporeflexive
- something interrupting the reflex arc

UMN lesion – above AHC

- hyper due to **↓inhibition** from higher brain centers

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UMN vs LMN lesion symptoms

UMN lesion: Examples:

> •Hyperreflexia CVA,

Parkinson's Hypertonicity disease, Brain

Injury

LMN lesion: Examples:

> Hyporeflexia Carpel tunnel

syndrome, Peripheral Hypotonicity

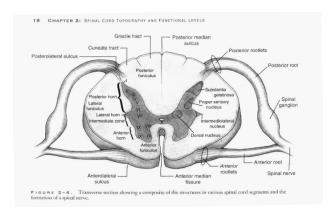
neuropathy, PN injury

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Spinal Cord Injury

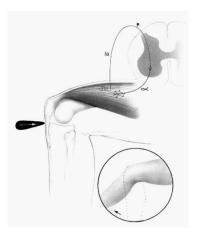
- At injury level HYPO (LMN lesion)
- Above injury level NORMAL
- Below injury level HYPER (UMN lesion)



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Deep Tendon Reflex Testing



Grading:

0 = no response

+ = hypoactive response

++ = normal

+++ = hyperactive

++++ = very hyperactive

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DTR Method of Documentation

Reflex testing for various spinal levels

C5 - Biceps

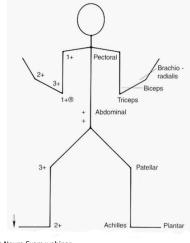
C6 - Brachioradialis

C7 - Triceps

L4 - Quads (patellar)

L5 - Hams

S1 - Achilles



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Video – DTR testing

- UE reflexes
- LE reflexes
- LE reflexes cont.

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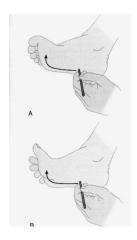
Superficial Reflex Testing

- -Elicited by stroking skin with handle of reflex hammer or finger
- -Done bilaterally
 - -Upper abdomen stroke laterally across upper abdomen → mov't of umbilicus up & toward side stroked
 - -Lower abdomen \rightarrow mov't down and toward side stroked

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Superficial Reflex Testing



Babinski (Plantar)

- Stroke lateral aspect of heel toward sole of foot

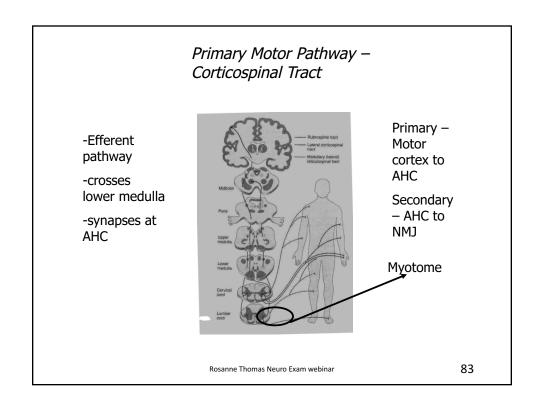
Normal - Toe flexion

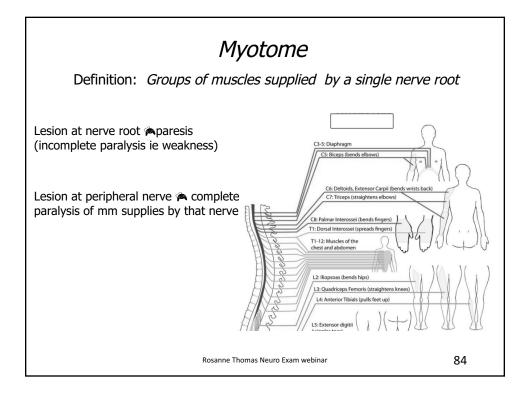
Abnormal – extension of big toe, fanning of others

Documentation - Present or Absent

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Video – Myotome testing

- UE Myotome
- LE Myotome

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Tone Testing

Definition – Muscle resistance to passive stretch

Resistance may be due to:

-physical inertia

-intrinsic mechanical elastic stiffness of muscle & connective tissue

-reflex muscle contraction

Postural tone – used to describe a pattern of muscle tension that exists throughout the body

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Categories of Tone

Hypertonia - ↑ above normal resting levels

Hypotonia - ↓ below normal resting levels

Dystonia – impaired or disordered tonicity

- sustained involuntary mov't

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Tone Examination

- 1- Initial observation
 - -abnormal posturing
- amount of spontaneous movement
- 2- Passive motion testing Move the limb randomly & at a continuous rate
- Normal = limb moves easily & PT able to alter direction & speed without excess resistance
- Hyper = limb feels stiff & resists mov't
- Hypo = limb feels heavy & unresponsive

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- 3- Pendulum test let leg drop & swing
- 4- Drop arm test -
- -Normal = limb falls momentarily then catches & maintains position as intact, automatic proprioception reacts to prevent it from falling
- -Hypo = limb falls abruptly
- -Hyper a delay & then resistance to falling
- 5- Ashworth Scale -
- 5 point ordinal scale with established reliability and validity

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Hypertonicity Scale - Modified Ashworth

Grade	Description			
0	No increase in muscle tone			
1	Slight increase in muscle tone, manifested by a catch and release or by minimal resistance at the end range of motion when the affected parties moved in flexion or extension			
1+	Slight increase in muscle tone, manifested by a catch, followed by minimal resistance throughout the remainder (less than half) of the range of motion			
2	More marked increase in muscle tone through most of the range of motion, but the affected part is easily moved			
3	Considerable increase in muscle tone, passive movement is difficult			
4	Affected part is rigid in flexion or extension			

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cGvxUyjH4Fk

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Моток	Test	Normal? Grade L&R	Neuroanatomical localization
TONE:	Test passive movement:	Hypo, hyper, or normal tone?	
Upper extremity	Elbow		Motor unit →
	Wrist		Corticospinal tract → Basal ganglia &/or its
Lower Extremity	Knees		connections →
	Ankles		_
BULK & INVOLUNTARY	Head	Bulk: normal,	Motor unit
MOVEMENT	Neck	hypertrophy or atrophy?	Basal ganglia &/or its
MUSCLE STRENGTH:	Extremities L&R against resistance	(Grade 0-5)	connections Done in myotomes
Upper Extremity	Deltoids C5	(Grade 0-5)	C5 myotome
, sp., s.	Biceps		C6 myotome
	Triceps		C7 myotome
	Wrist Extensors		C6 myotome
	Wrist Flexors		C7 myotome
	Grip		C7&T1myotomes
	Finger flexors		C8 myotome
	Finger extensors & abductors		C7, C8, T1 myotomes
Lower Extremity	Hip Flexion		L1&2 myotome
	Knee Extension		L3&4 myotome
	Knee Flexion		L3&4 myotome
	Ankle Dorsiflexion		L4&5 myotome
	Ankle plantar Flexion		S1 myotome
	Test	Grade L&R	Neuroanatomical localization

Motor Exam Overview continued

Test	Grade L&R	Neuroanatomical localization			
MOTOR EXAM, CONT'D	Compare L & R	(Grade 0-4)		Clinical comments	
REFLEXES	Biceps	C5	Musculocutaneous n.; C5-C7 spinal cord & roots		
Upper Extrem. DTR	Triceps	C7	Radial n.; C6 to C8 cord & roots	Hyporeflexia indicates peripheral nerve or LMN lesion; Hyperreflexia,	
	Brachioradialis	C6	Radial n.;C5 & C6 spinal cord & roots		
	Patellar	L4	Femoral n.; L3 to L4 spinal cord & roots	spasticity, or clonus indicate	
Lower Extrem. DTR	Achilles	S1	Tibial n.; S1 spinal cord & roots	corticospinal tract lesion.	
	Plantar (Babinski)		Tibial n.; S1 to S2 spinal cord & roots		

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Summary

- The neuro exam
 - Aids in confirming a dx
 - Aids in determining impairments that may be contributing to functional limitations
 - Guides the clinician in determining a functional prognosis
 - Must be done systematically and correctly for maximum reliability and validity

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Neuro Exam Sequencing

- Sensory Exam Done before motor exam
 - · Ability to perceive
 - Superficial sensation light touch, pain/temp,
 - · Deep sensation -
 - proprioception position sense, passive motion sense
 - Vibration
 - Ability to integration or interpret sensation
 - Point localization, 2 point discrimination, extinction, graphesthesia

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Neuro Exam Sequencing

- Motor Exam Done after Sensory testing
 - Reflexes DTRs, Babinski
 - Posturing
 - GMT within myotomes
 - Tone
 - · Passive Motion
 - Ashworth
 - · Drop arm
 - Pendulum

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