MUSCULOSKELETAL EXAM

• 37M people have some form of arthritis—you will have lots of patients
• Rheumatology—needs more than just a few good physicians—needs a lot of physicians
• Value of the H&P—a truism—if you don’t know 90% of the time or better what the patient has by the end of the HPI...you are in trouble

Things you must Do

• Is the pain worse on weight bearing?
• Is the worst pain and stiffness present upon arising?
• What drugs have you tried, what dose and what happened?
• Always do bilateral assessments of joints

Make the patient focus!
How not to write your history

RECORDING THE EXAM

- In the real world—"BJM are normal" or "all joints: ROM intact"
- Can use either a table format or Stick diagram/template
- STL system is 0-4 with 4 being the worst possible and 0 is normal
- Worst is maximal swelling, severe tenderness and complete loss of motion
- Simply state whether fluid is present or not

BONDING

“Our hands are central to our psychology as they continually switch between executive, exploratory and expressive activity”
UPPER BODY

• Nails
UPPER BODY

- Nails
- Palms, Hands ....... Grip strength and “knuckle sign” are very helpful.

Depression
More or less susceptible to myocardial infarction?

Heberden’s Nodes

Bouchard’s Nodes
Clue to an infectious arthritis

Palmar Erythema
telangiectasia

Double Jointed

This Patient should stop what?
What are the yellow nodules?

What drug should this patient have been on?

Synovitis
Rheumatoid arthritis

**UPPER BODY**

- Nails
- Palms, Hands…….. Grip strength and “knuckle sign” are very helpful.
- Do a Tinel’s sign while you are there
- Arms- slide hand along ulna for nodules
What is this?

UPPER BODY

- Nails
- Palms, Hands……... Grip strength and “knuckle sign” are very helpful.
- Do a Tinel’s sign while you are there
- Arms- slide hand along ulna for nodules
- Elbow—synovial thickening at ulnar groove and epitrochlear nodes are the “SOs” of the rheumatology consult!
- Olecranon bursal effusions are likely when elbow has full ROM
UPPER BODY

• Cervical Spine and ........don’t forget the TMJ!
• Shoulders

Quick Assessment of Shoulder Function

• If the pt can abduct, elevate the arm above the head and touch the contralateral shoulder then re-elevate and by reverse motion to touch the L-S spine it is highly unlikely there is significant pathology present.
• Rotator Cuff assessment: by history there will be inability/pain on abducting arm >90º and by PX pain on internal/external rotation at 90º
• Pt may also have + beer can sign
• If there is abnormal and/or pain upon motion of the humerus in the A-P dimension, pathology is in the G-H joint
WHAT MEDICATION IS SHE TAKING?

A SLIGHTLY HIGHER YIELD THAN SPINAL PERCUSSION

DOES THIS MAN HAVE HEART DISEASE?
LOWER BODY

• Skin

ERYTHEMA MIGRANS

ERYTHEMA NODOSUM
LOWER BODY

- Skin
- Feet: MTPs are sentinel joints for inflammatory arthritis
- Ankle

Podagra

Psoriasis
LOWER BODY

- Knee
  - flexion
  - extension
  - patellofemoral clicking
  - don’t forget the anserine bursa

WHAT IS THE ANSERINE BURSA?

- VERY COMMONLY MISSED SOURCE OF “KNEE” PAIN
- Worst at night and on stairs
- Obese
- DJD of knee common
- Know the muscles insertions that define it.
- Very easy to treat

LOWER BODY

- Skin
- Feet
- Ankle
- Knee
- Hip
  - internal-external ROM while knee flexed
TERMS/SYNDROMES

Arthralgia/arthritis
Myalgia
Baker’s cyst
Ganglion cyst
Medial and lateral epicondylitis
Patello-femoral syndrome
Hypermobility syndrome

Recording the Exam

• S…L…T graded on a scale of 1-4
• Writing that a joint has fluid and is warm and tender means a lot
• ROM.."normal vs abnormal" can suffice in most circumstances
• Stickpeople can be helpful

The End