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





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



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"

• Nails











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





















Double Jointed



This Patient should stop what?





What drug should this patient have been on?









- Nails
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- · Do a Tinel's sign while you are there
- · Arms- slide hand along ulna for nodules



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- 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 epitroclear nodes are the "\$4s" of the rheumatology consult!







- Cervical Spine anddon'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 >90° and by PX pain on internal /external rotation at 90°
- 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











LOWER BODY

• Skin





LOWER BODY

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





LOWER BODY

• Knee

- flexion
- extension
- patello/remoral 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

The End

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