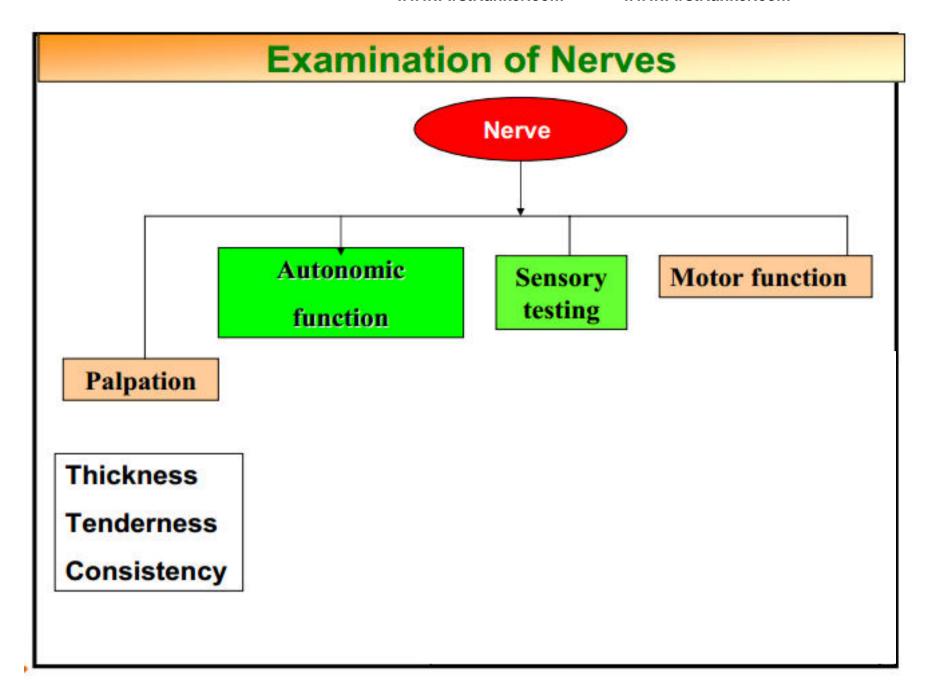


Leprosy nerve examination

Introduction

- OSCE = objective structured clinical examination
- OSPE = objective structured practical examination





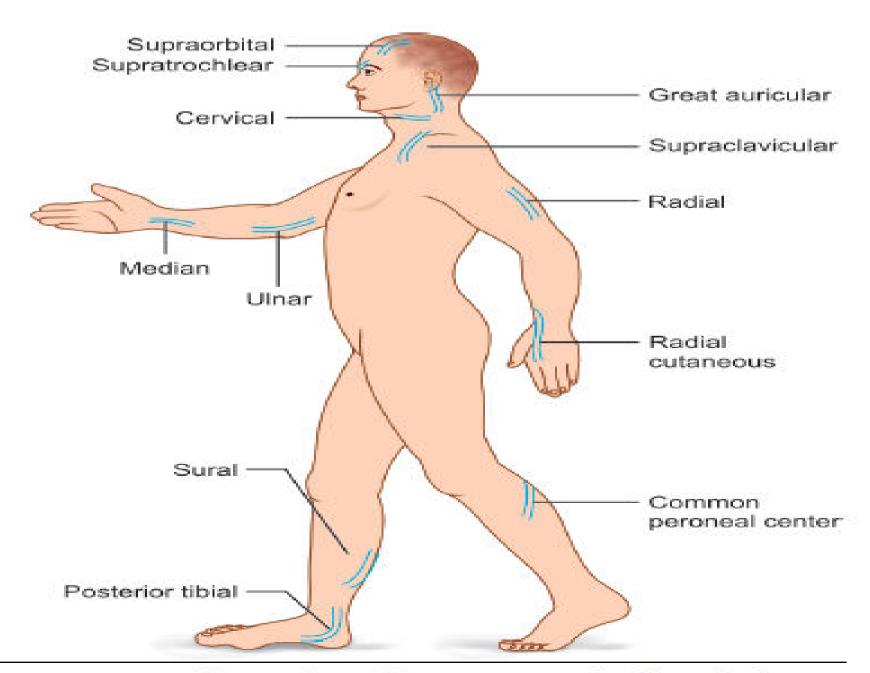




Table 28.1: Grading of nerve thickness			
Grade	Degree	Description	
0	Not thickened	Nerve not thickened and feels normal*	
1	Mild thickening	Thickened compared to contralateral nerve	
2	Moderate thickening	Thickening is rope like	
3	Severe thickening	Nerve thickened and also nodular or beaded	

^{*} Normal nerve feels soft to firm, flattish and slightly compressible.

Table 28.2: Grading of nerve tenderness			
Grade	Degree	Description	
0	None	Palpation is not painful even when asked about it	
1	Mild	Palpation is painful only when asked about it	
2	Moderate	Indicates palpation is painful by wincing during palpation or says so	
3	Severe	On palpation, tries to withdraw the limb or is clearly distressed by any pressure on the nerve	



Procedure for palpation of a nerve

- Position the patient correctly.
- Locate the nerve correctly
- Look at the patient's face while palpating the nerve gently with the pulp of the finger (not the tip of the finger) to elicit tenderness.
- Always palpate across the course of the nerve.
- Feel along the nerve as far as possible in both directions. A localized fluctuant and tender swelling may represent as nerve abscess.

- Nerves on the two sides must be compared to detect any abnormality
- Besides nerve trunk examination, examine area around / proximal to area of loss of sensation/ around skin lesion for thickening of cutaneous nerves, especially those entering the skin lesions.





Fig. 17.2: Examination of ulnar nerve







Fig. 17.7: Examination of great auricular nerve



Fig. 17.10: Examination of radial cutaneous nerve www.FirstRanker.com





Fig. 17.5: Examination of common peroneal nerve



Fig. 17.6: Examination of posterior tibial nerve

