

Leprosy nerve examination

Examination of Nerves

Nerve

**Autonomic
function**

**Sensory
testing**

Motor function

Palpation

**Thickness
Tenderness
Consistency**

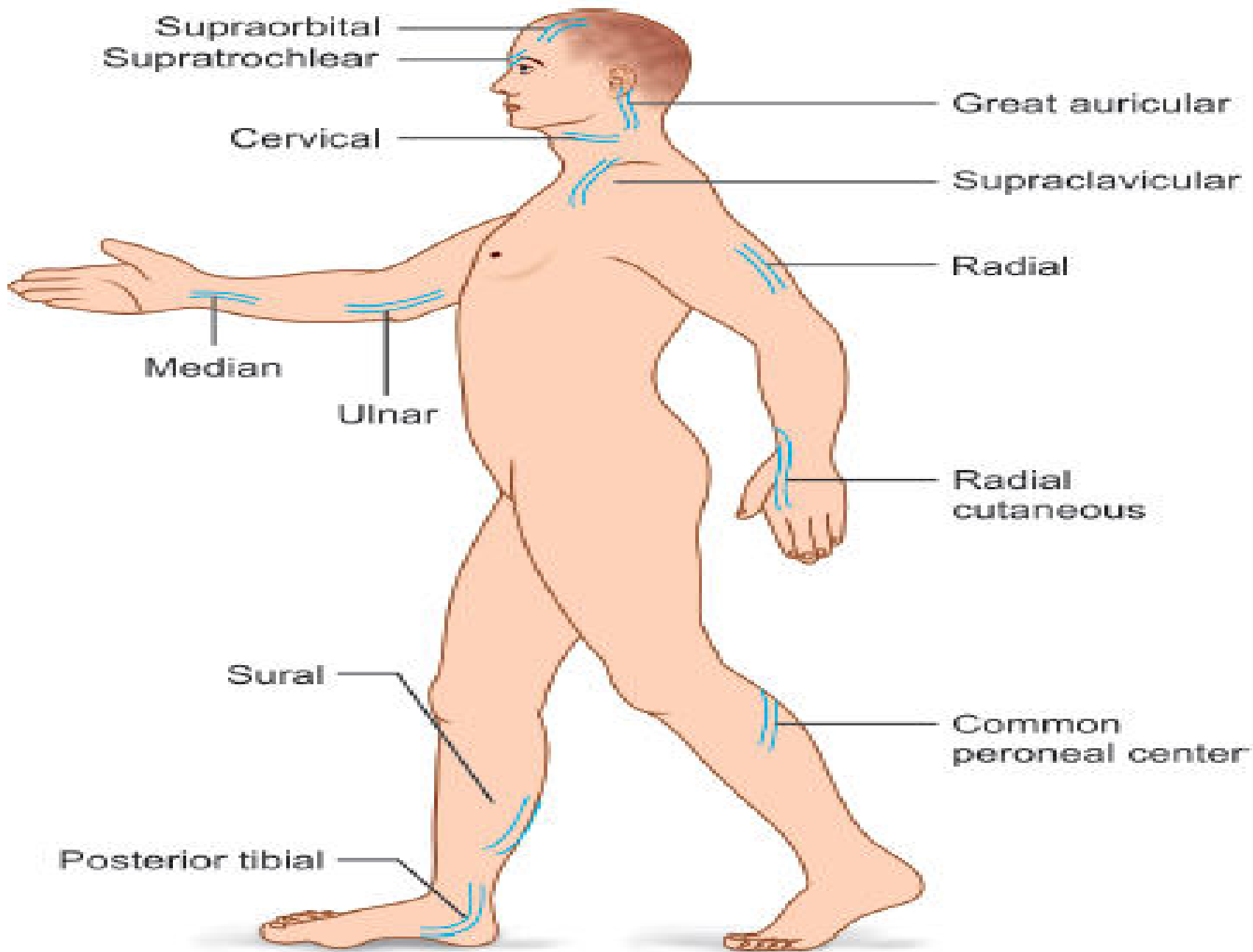


Fig. 17.1: Surface marking of nerves commonly affected in leprosy

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

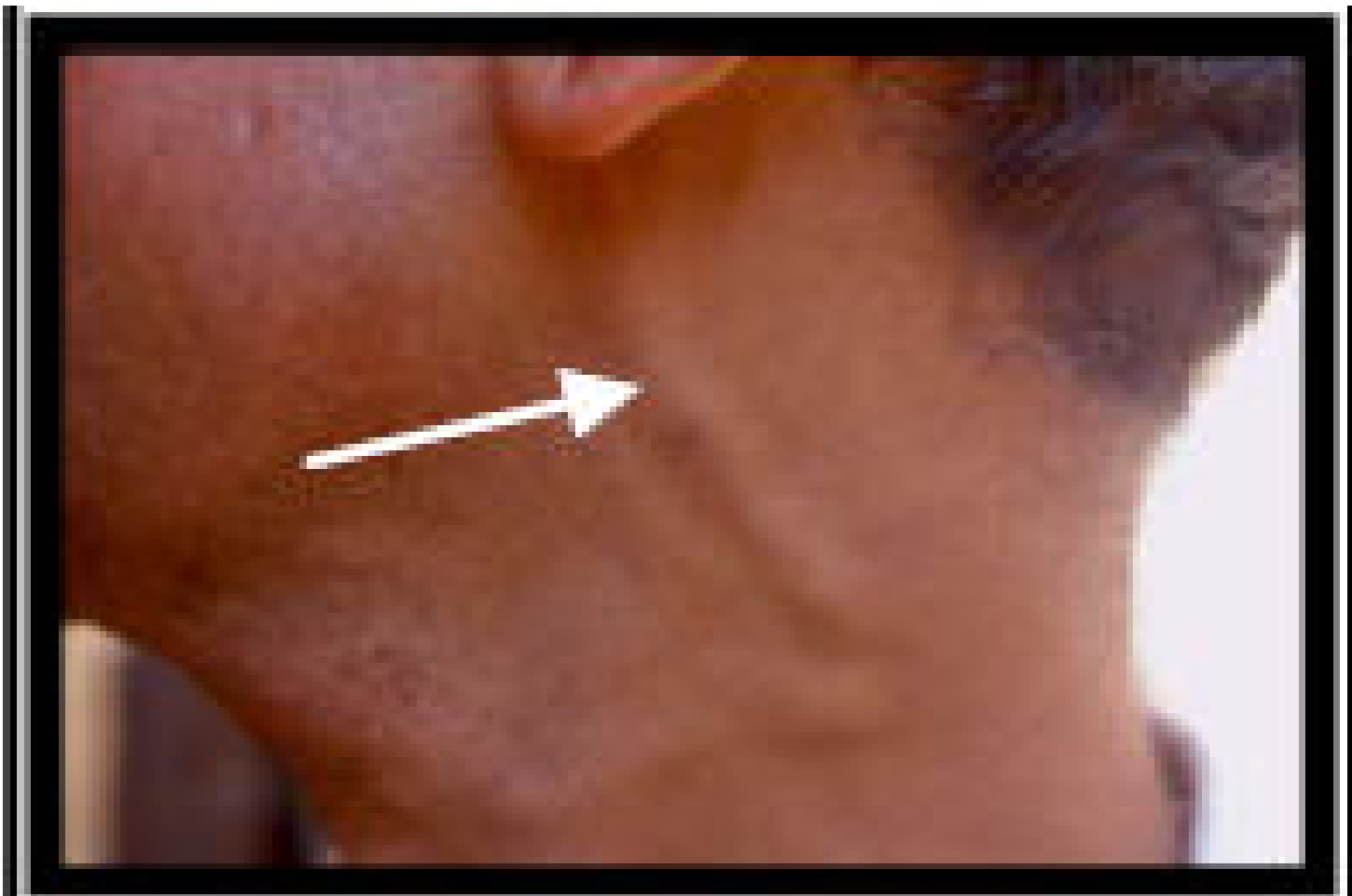


Fig. 17.7: Examination of great auricular nerve



Fig. 17.10: Examination of radial cutaneous nerve



Fig. 17.5: Examination of common peroneal nerve



Fig. 17.6: Examination of posterior tibial nerve

[video](#)

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