The Neurological Exam

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Dr. Katzman has nothing to disclose
Examination of the Central Nervous System

After this session, participants will be able to:

1. Understand importance of patient examination of Central Nervous System for pain patients.

2. Learn the basics of actual Central Nervous System exam skills.

3. Understand how the examination of Central Nervous System, can help with differential diagnoses of patients suffering from pain.
1. Mental Status
   - Attention
   - Orientation
   - Naming
   - Language
   - Abstraction
   - Reading
   - Writing
   - Memory
   - Frontal Lobe Systems Tasks

2. Cranial Nerves
   - I- Olfactory
   - II- Optic
   - III- Oculomotor
   - IV- Trochlear
   - V- Trigeminal (Ophthalmic, Maxillary, Mandibular)
   - VI- Abducens
   - VII- Facial
   - VIII- Acoustovestibular
   - IX-Glossopharyngeal
   - X- Vagus
   - XI- Spinal Accessory
   - XII- Hypoglossal

3. Motor
   - Strength/Power
   - Tone
   - Deep Tendon Reflexes
   - Fine Finger Movements

4. Cerebellar
   - Finger to Nose
   - Heel to Shin
   - Balance “Righting Response”, “Checking” Reflex

5. Sensory
   - Light Touch
   - Pin Prick
   - Vibration
   - Proprioception
   - Temperature
   - Two-point discrimination
   - Romberg

6. Gait
   - Heel to Toe
   - Balance/Antalgia
   - Functional component
Neurological Exam

• Importance of the History

• Patient Centered

• Chief Complaint

• History of the Present Illness

• Psychosocial History

• Functional Goals

• Medications- current, and past (reason for discontinuation)
Neurological Exam (continued)

• Modalities Tried:
  1- Interventions
  2- Physical Therapy
  3- Exercise: how much, what type, how long
  4- Massage
  5- Yoga
  6- Acupuncture
  7- TENS unit, biofeedback, hypnosis
Mental Status

• Attention

1- Able to answer questions
2- Follow 3 step commands
3- Spell “WORLD” forwards and backwards
4- Repeat 7-digit number
5- Frontal Lobe Tasks
6- Name last 4 Presidents of the United States
7- Counting back by 7, from 100... 93, 86, 79...
Mental Status (continued)

• Orientation (person, place, situation)

• Naming

• Language (receptive, expressive)

• Abstraction

• Reading

• Writing
Cranial Nerves

• I- Olfactory Nerve

• II- Optic

• III- Oculomotor

• IV- Trochlear

• V- Trigeminal (Ophthalmic, Maxillary, Mandibular)

• VI- Abducens

• VII- Facial
Cranial Nerves (continued)

- VIII- Acoustovestibular
- IX- Glossopharyngeal
- X- Vagus
- XI- Spinal Accessory
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Motor Exam

• Strength/Power

• Fine Finger Movements

• Deep Tendon Reflexes (reflex hammer)

• Tone/Spasticity

• Differences in motor examination with Upper and Lower Motor Neuron Diseases (examples)
Cerebellar Exam

• Finger to Nose

• Heel to Shin

• “Righting Response”

• Balance

• “Check” Response

• Diseases with Abnormal Cerebellar Exam findings (examples)
Sensory Exam

- Touch: Light Touch, Pin Prick
- Vibration Sense (Tuning Fork)
- Proprioception
- Temperature: Cold/Hot
- Romberg (dorsal columns---NOT cerebellar)
Gait Evaluation

• Heel to Toe

• Tandem Gait

• Antalgia

• Balance

• Functional
Functional Pain Scales

• Brief Pain Inventory (BPI)

• Pain Outcomes Profile

• Pain Tracker
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Project ECHO is funded in part by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and has received support from the New Mexico Legislature, the University of New Mexico, the New Mexico Department of Public Health and Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.