

1. Pain
2. Pulselessness
3. Pallor
4. Paresthesia
5. Paralysis
6. Pressure (Box 29-3)

Box 29-3

Compartment Syndrome Evaluation

Assess the extent of injury — “the 6 Ps”:

1. **Pain:** Severe pain that is not relieved by analgesics or elevation of the limb, movement that increases pain
2. **Pulselessness:** Inability to palpate a pulse distal to the fracture or compartment
3. **Pallor:** Pale appearing skin, poor perfusion, capillary refill greater than 3 seconds
4. **Paresthesia:** Tingling or burning sensations
5. **Paralysis:** Inability to move extremity or digits
6. **Pressure:** Involved limb or digits may feel tense and warm; skin is tight, shiny; pressure within the compartment is elevated