UPPER LIMB NEUROLOGY EXAMINATION GUIDE

Please note these guides are not necessarily the curriculum taught at the medical schools. They are basic templates to assist in structuring bedside teaching, for stimulating thought about clinical findings and aiding constructive feedback back from junior doctors to medical students.

Introduction: Please examine this patient's upper limbs

	Method	Observed/Comment
Introduction	Wash hands	
	Introduce	
	Asks for consent to examine	
Exposure and	45 degree or upright	
positioning	Appropriate exposure	
Inspection	Walking aids	
	Syndromes: Myotonic dystrophy	
	Muscle wasting	
	Scars (including neck)	
	Fasciculations	
Palpate	Muscle bulk	
	Fasciculations	
Tone	Ask patient if in pain first	
	Check in wrist and elbow	
	Rigidity: cogwheel/lead pipe	
	Spasticity: velocity dependant (if moved will	
	giveaway)	
Power	Shoulder: adduction and abduction	
	Elbow: flexion and extension	
	Wrist: flexion and extension	
	Finger: adduction, flexion and extension	
	Grip strength	
	Nerves tests:	
	Radial (C5-C8): extension wrist and fingers	
	Ulnar (C8-T1): paper between thumb and	
	index	
	Median (C6-T1): Thumb abduction	
Reflexes	Bicep (C5/6)	
	Tricep (C7/8)	
	Brachioradialis (C5/6)	
Coordination	Finger to nose	
	Dysdiadokinesis	
	+/- Rebound	
Sensation	Pain and Temperature	
	Vibration	(6
	Proprioception	