CARDIOVASCULAR 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.

Instructions: Please exam this patient's cardiovascular system

	Method	Observed/Comment
Introduction	Wash hands	
	Introduce	
	Asks for consent to examine	
Exposure and	45 degree	
positioning	Appropriate exposure	
General Inspection	Dyspnoea	
	Scars	
	Syndromes: Marfan's, Down's	
Hands	Nails: clubbing, splinter haemorrhages	
	Tar Staining	
	Osler's nodes (painful on pulps of finges),	
	Janeway Lesions (non-tender on palms)	
	Xanthomata	
	Peripheral cyanosis	
	Pulse:	
	Radial Pulse: rate and rhythm	
	Radial- radial delay	
	Collapsing pulse	
	(+/-radial- femoral delay)	
Blood pressure	Appropriately complete or asked for	
Face	Eyes: Conjunctival palor or erythema	
	Xanthelasma	
	Mouth: High arches palate, pulsating uvula	
	(AR)	
Neck	JVP: 45 degrees, access and visualise, size	
	Abdominojugular reflex	
	Non-palpable	
	Carotids: Character	
Praecordium	Inspect: Scars, pulsations, chest wall	
	deformity	
	Palpate: Apex beat (5 th ICS mid-clavicular	(86
	line)	
	Thrills	
	Auscultate: Heart sounds	
	Murmurs	

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	- ESM: AS, HOCM	
	PSM: MR, TR	
	Early diastolic: AR, PR	
	Mid diastolic: MS, TS	
	Added sounds: Pericardial rub	
	Dynamic manoeuvres:	
	Right sided increased Inspiration	
	Left sided increased Expiration	
	(RILE)	
	Hand grip: MR increased	
	Valsalva: HOCM increased	
	Squatting: MR increased	
Back	Percuss and auscultate lung bases	
Abdomen	Hepatomegaly (pulsatile) – TR	
	Ascites (RVF)	
	Femoral Arteries	
Lower limbs	Scars (CABG venous graft)	
	Peripheral oedema	

Comments:

