

Examination Tests, Signs, and Maneuvers

Upper Extremities

Adson's test - One of the many tests to detect compression of the artery or nerves under the clavicle and thoracic outlet syndrome. Sometimes assists in being able to make the definitive diagnosis of thoracic outlet syndrome.

Allen test - A test done to document normal circulation to the hand, testing for intact radial and ulnar arteries.

Axial loading - Can be helpful in documenting irritable nerve roots in the neck and also part of the Waddell's testing criteria.

Babinski reflex - Part of neurological testing to document intact central nervous system function.

Codman's sign - One of a number of provocative maneuvers to test for the integrity of the rotator cuff. Often referred to as the 'drop test'.

Finklestein sign - Accomplished to document inflammation or entrapment of tendons on the radial or thumb side of the wrist.

Heberden's nodules - Present in advanced osteoarthritis and manifested as protrusions at the distal interphalangeal joints of the fingers.

Kernig's test - Spinal cord stretch test to reproduce pain (pain in the neck, low back or legs is an indication of nerve irritation).

Lhermitte's sign - Typically done as part of a neurological examination to help rule out problems in the cervical spinal cord area.

Phalen's maneuver - Accomplished as part of testing for the presence of carpal tunnel syndrome.

Spurling test - Accomplished as part of testing to determine if there is cervical nerve root disease.

Tinel's sign - Accomplished as part of testing for a nerve compression syndrome such as carpal tunnel syndrome.

Yergason test - One of a number of provocative tests for the shoulder to help determine a problem with the long head of the biceps tendon.