

ABOUT THIS STUDY

The value of physical examination and the physical signs such examination may reveal continues to be debated.

This study is the first to evaluate clinicians' views about the use of physical examination in their day to day clinical practice.

The study is open to clinicians of all grades and all specialties, provided they have experience of either

a) acute all-age general medical receiving

or

b) general medical out-patient work

in the past 5 years.

It will take you under 10 minutes to complete.

1. What experience do you have of acute all age unselected medical receiving or general medical out patient clinics in the past 5 years?

- ☐ Acute Receiving only
- ☐ General Medical Out Patient Clinics only
- ☐ Both
- ☐ Neither

ABOUT YOU

There are seven questions about your background on this page that will take around one minute to complete.

2. What is your gender?

☐ Female

☐ Male

3. Year of Primary Medical Qualification

Year

Year of Primary Medical
Qualification

4. Country of Graduation (Primary Medical Qualification)

☐ UK

☐ EEA

☐ Non UK/EEA

5. Have you attained the MRCP(UK) diploma?

☐ Yes

☐ No

6. Are you an MRCP(UK) PACES examiner?

☐ Yes

☐ No

7. What is your main specialty interest?

Specialty

Main Specialty

8. In which country has your general medical experience, on which you base your answers in this survey, predominantly been based?

9. What is your current grade?

THE ROLE OF PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

The next short group of questions explore some general aspects of the physical examination.

These questions will take you less than two minutes to complete.

PLEASE NOTE: Relate your answers only to your general medical work and not your specialty work.

10. How valuable is physical examination in the assessment of general medical referrals?

	Almost never valuable	Occasionally valuable	Frequently valuable	Almost always valuable
Acute referrals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Out patient referrals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. What proportion of medical referrals require physical examination of any sort?

	0-24%	25-49%	50-74%	75-100%
Acute referrals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Out patient referrals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12. What proportion of medical referrals require a traditional, comprehensive, systematic physical examination?

	0-24%	25-49%	50-74%	75-100%
Acute referrals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Out patient referrals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13. In comparison to the history, how valuable is physical examination in the assessment of general medical referrals?

	Much less valuable	Slightly less valuable	About the same value	Slightly more valuable	Much more valuable
Acute referrals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Out patient referrals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

14. In your experience of acute post receiving ward rounds what proportion of patients are actually examined by the consultant or other senior clinical decision maker, other than by taking the pulse?

	0-24%	25-49%	50-74%	75-100%	I don't do acute receiving
Proportion examined	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

15. On how many occasions per week are the physical examination skills of the average FY/CMT level trainee directly observed by a consultant?

	0	1-2	3-4	5-8	>8
Trainees observed by consultants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

16. On how many occasions per week does a consultant demonstrate their technique in any component of the physical examination to FY/CMT level trainees?

	0	1-2	3-4	5-8	>8
Consultants observed by trainees	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

17. How do the physical examination skills of current graduates from your own country of training compare to those of your own peer group at the point of graduation?

	Much poorer	A little poorer	About the same	A little better	Much better
Current graduates' skills are	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SPECIFIC COMPONENTS OF THE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

PLEASE TAKE TIME TO READ THIS INTRODUCTION.

This question forms the longest but most important part of the study and will take you around 6 minutes to complete.

The frequency of use of different bedside clinical assessments is unknown but is likely to be determined by the incidence of different diseases in the presenting population and the clinical knowledge, beliefs and habits of clinicians.

Some bedside clinical assessments may be used because the clinician genuinely values and trusts the information that the assessment provides but others may be used simply because of clinical habit or other reasons.

We want you to think about your own use of a series of standard bedside clinical assessments in the clinical diagnosis and management of general medical patients.

For each assessment, please decide whether your use is “Relatively Infrequent” or “Relatively Frequent” and, in your experience of the use the assessment, whether you generally trust or value the information you derive from it (“Useful”) or you do not generally trust or value the information you derive from it (“Not Useful”).

For example if you only occasionally assess visual fields by confrontation but feel you generally trust or value the information you derive from it when you do, then this should be categorised as “Relatively Infrequent: Useful.”

The list of clinical assessments is not intended to be all inclusive.

PLEASE RELATE YOUR ANSWERS TO GENERAL MEDICAL WORK ONLY AND NOT ANY SPECIALTY WORK YOU UNDERTAKE.

18. SPECIFIC COMPONENTS OF THE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION.

For each assessment, please decide whether your use is “Relatively Infrequent” or “Relatively Frequent” and, in your experience of the use the assessment, whether you generally trust or value the information you derive from it (“Useful”) or you do not generally trust or value the information you derive from it (“Not Useful”).

	Relatively Infrequent : Not useful	Relatively Infrequent : Useful	Relatively Frequent : Not useful	Relatively Frequent : Useful
Haemoglobin level by inspection of the conjunctivae	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
State of hydration using skin turgor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peripheral perfusion using capillary refill time	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cyanosis by inspection of the tongue	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lymphadenopathy by palpation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Thyroid status by clinical examination	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Level of consciousness using a rating scale (e.g.GCS)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cognitive function using a rating scale (e.g.AMT)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Postural blood pressure to assess volume status	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Palpation of an artery to determine cardiac rate and rhythm	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Palpation of an artery to determine pulse character and volume	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Measurement of the jugular venous pressure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Inspection of the character of the jugular venous waveform	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SPECIFIC COMPONENTS OF THE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION (2)

19. SPECIFIC COMPONENTS OF THE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION.

For each assessment, please decide whether your use is “Relatively Infrequent” or “Relatively Frequent” and, in your experience of the use the assessment, whether you generally trust or value the information you derive from it (“Useful”) or you do not generally trust or value the information you derive from it (“Not Useful”).

	Relatively Infrequent : Not useful	Relatively Infrequent : Useful	Relatively Frequent : Not useful	Relatively Frequent : Useful
Praecordial palpation for thrills or heaves	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Praecordial palpation of the location and character of the apical impulse	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Auscultation to evaluate normal or detect abnormal, added heart sounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Auscultation to determine the presence of a cardiac murmur	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Auscultation to determine the cause of a cardiac murmur	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Evaluation of visual acuity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Evaluation of visual fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Evaluation of pupillary responses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Evaluation of external ocular movements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Evaluation of hearing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Evaluation of speech	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Evaluation of swallowing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Evaluation of muscular power	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Relatively Infrequent : Not useful	Relatively Infrequent : Useful	Relatively Frequent : Not useful	Relatively Frequent : Useful
Evaluation of muscular tone	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Evaluation of tendon reflexes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SPECIFIC COMPONENTS OF THE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION (3)

20. SPECIFIC COMPONENTS OF THE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION.

For each assessment, please decide whether your use is “Relatively Infrequent” or “Relatively Frequent” and, in your experience of the use the assessment, whether you generally trust or value the information you derive from it (“Useful”) or you do not generally trust or value the information you derive from it (“Not Useful”).

	Relatively Infrequent : Not useful	Relatively Infrequent : Useful	Relatively Frequent : Not useful	Relatively Frequent : Useful
Evaluation of peripheral sensation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assessment of postural stability using Romberg's test	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Evaluation of cerebellar function by any clinical method	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Plantar responses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Palpation of the trachea for deviation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chest expansion by palpation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Auscultation to assess pulmonary air entry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Percussion of the chest for abnormal dullness or hyperresonance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Auscultation of the character of breath sounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Auscultation for the presence of pulmonary wheezes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Auscultation for the presence of pulmonary crackles	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Auscultation to determine the character of pulmonary crackles	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Relatively Infrequent : Not useful	Relatively Infrequent : Useful	Relatively Frequent : Not useful	Relatively Frequent : Useful
Palpation of the abdomen for tenderness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Palpation of the abdomen for masses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SPECIFIC COMPONENTS OF THE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION (4) - FINAL PAGE

21. SPECIFIC COMPONENTS OF THE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION.

For each assessment, please decide whether your use is “Relatively Infrequent” or “Relatively Frequent” and, in your experience of the use the assessment, whether you generally trust or value the information you derive from it (“Useful”) or you do not generally trust or value the information you derive from it (“Not Useful”).

	Relatively Infrequent : Not useful	Relatively Infrequent : Useful	Relatively Frequent : Not useful	Relatively Frequent : Useful
Abdominal auscultation to assess the character of bowel sounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Abdominal auscultation to assess the presence or absence of bowel sounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Abdominal palpation and percussion to assess the size of the liver	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Abdominal palpation and percussion to assess the size of the spleen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Abdominal percussion and palpation to assess the presence of ascites	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Abdominal palpation to assess the size of the kidneys	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rectal examination to assess the size and consistency of the prostate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Inspection and palpation of the thyroid gland for evidence of goitre	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assessment of the eyes for features of thyroid disease	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Relatively Infrequent : Not useful	Relatively Infrequent : Useful	Relatively Frequent : Not useful	Relatively Frequent : Useful
Evaluation of a cutaneous rash	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Evaluation of the optic disc by ophthalmoscopy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Evaluation of the retinae by ophthalmoscopy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Evaluation of joints for evidence of synovitis	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Evaluation of the knee joint for effusion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Evaluation of the joints for evidence of impaired range of movement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Evaluation of gait	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

END OF SURVEY

Thank you for participating.

This is the end of the survey - but it is possible for you to go back and check or amend answers if you wish.

We intend to disseminate the results of this survey within the next 6 months.

If you have any comments about any aspect of the survey or the topic please enter them below.

22. Comments (Optional)