

# Patellar Pubic Percussion Test

Name: Emily Rivera

Age: 34

Date: May 3, 2024

Examiner: Dr. Jonathan Hail

## Pre-test checklist

- Confirm the patient has no known allergies to metal if using a tuning fork.
- Ensure the examination room is quiet enough to clearly hear percussion sounds.
- Check that the stethoscope and tuning fork (if used) are functional.

## Test procedure

1. Position the patient in a supine position on the examination table.
2. Wear the stethoscope and place the bell on the pelvis lateral to the pubic symphysis, on the pubic tubercle of the side being examined.
3. Tap on the patella using a finger or a small hammer and listen for the quality of the sound produced. Alternatively, place a 128 Hz tuning fork on the patella or femoral condyle and listen.
4. Assess the sound:
  - a. **Dull sound:** Positive sign, suggestive of a fracture.
  - b. **Sharp sound:** Negative sign, suggestive of no fracture.
  - c. **Tuning fork hum:** Listen for the transmission of the tuning fork's hum, indicating sound conduction through the bone, suggestive of no fracture.
5. Perform the test on the contralateral side and compare the sounds.

## Test findings

Right Side: Dull sound on percussion and faint tuning fork hum, suggestive of a fracture.  
Left Side: Sharp sound on percussion and clear tuning fork hum, indicating no fracture.

**Examiner's additional notes**

Patient reported slight discomfort during the test on the right side. Recommend further imaging to confirm the presence of a fracture and assess its extent.

**Healthcare professional's information**

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