Posterior Interosseous Nerve Test

Name: Avery Morin

Age: 45

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Examiner: Dr. Audrey Murphy

Overview

Posterior interosseous nerve syndrome is a rare condition that affects the hands and wrists. It is caused by compression of the posterior interosseous nerve, which runs through the forearm and supplies sensation to the back of the hand.

There is no definitive test that can diagnose posterior interosseous nerve syndrome. This template includes just some of the tests healthcare professionals may employ to assess a patient's condition and help guide medical decisions.

Note that further testing, such as X-rays or MRI scans, may be ordered to rule out other potential causes of symptoms, such as fractures or nerve tumors.

Preparation

- Explain the procedure to the patient and ensure they are comfortable.
- Position the patient sitting with the forearm relaxed and supported.

Tests to assess motor function

Wrist extension test

1. Ask the patient to make a fist and extend their wrist against resistance.
2. Observe for any weakness or pain in the muscles of the wrist.
3. A positive test is indicated by weakness or pain in the extensor carpi radialis longus and brevis muscles.

Result:

Finger extension test

1. Ask the patient to extend their thumb against resistance.
2. Observe for any weakness or pain in the muscles of the thumb.
3. A positive test is indicated by weakness or pain in the extensor pollicis longus and brevis muscles.

Result:

Thumb extension test

1. Ask the patient to extend their thumb against resistance.
2. Observe for any weakness or pain in the muscles of the thumb.
3. A positive test is indicated by weakness or pain in the extensor pollicis longus and brevis muscles.

Result:

Cozen’s test

1. Stabilize the patient's elbow while palpating the lateral epicondyle with one hand and place the other hand on the dorsum of the patient's hand.
2. Ask the patient to move the wrist into dorsiflexion, and the examiner provides resistance to this movement.
3. A positive test is indicated by pain elicited over the lateral epicondyle during this resisted wrist extension.

Result: Normal posterior interosseous nerve function observed.

Sensory examination

1. Perform a brief sensory examination to assess for any sensory deficits that may accompany nerve compression syndromes.
2. Check for hypoesthesia or altered sensation in the distribution of the posterior interosseous nerve.

Result:

Additional notes and findings

• Patient tolerated the procedure well.
• Documented findings are consistent with normal posterior interosseous nerve function.

Healthcare professional information

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