

Evidence Based Approach to the Shoulder Examination



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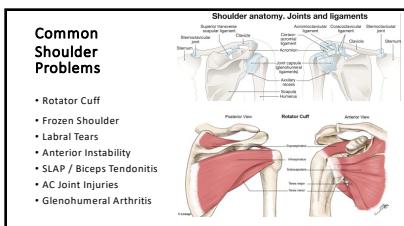
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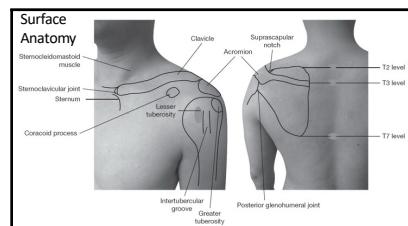
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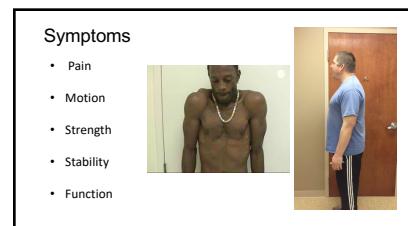
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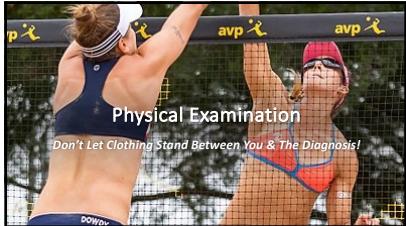
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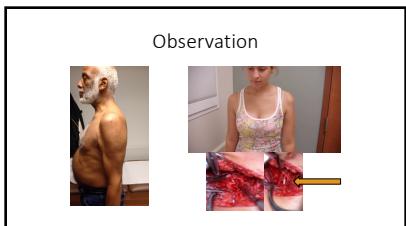
Physical Exam

- Observation & inspection
- Palpation
- Range of motion
- Strength testing
- Special tests

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Observation

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Scapular Winging/ Dyskinesis

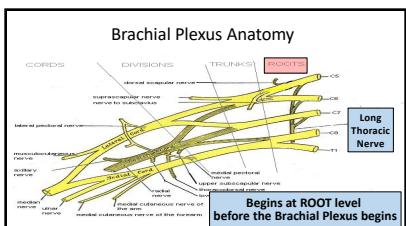
- Serratus Anterior
- Long Thoracic Nerve Palsy

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Serratus Anterior

Patrice Thiriet, Jean-Michel Grand, Anne-Sophie Léonard, Olivier Rastello
Realisation : Olivier Rastello
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Scapular Exam

Clinical Observation:

- Position = medial border
- Motion – dyskinesis patterns:
 - 1 – Inferior medial
 - 2 – medial
 - 3 – Superior medial- Test: 3-5 reps, flexion, 3.5 lb weight

Establish presence / absence of dyskinesis

Effects of corrective maneuvers

Assess causative factors

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Scapular Dyskinesis - 1

- Dyskinetic shoulders – 43% increased risk of subsequent injury
- Hickey et al BISM 2017
- Dyskinetic shoulder fail earlier under the same exposure, load
- Evaluation in asymptomatic athletes

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Evidence Based Approach to the Shoulder Examination

Advances on the Knee, Shoulder, and Sports Medicine
May 2025

SICK Scapula

Content Concepts
The Disabled Throwing Shoulder, Spectrum of Pathology
Part III: The SICK Scapula, Scapular Dyskinesis, the Kinetic Chain, and Rehabilitation

- Scapula Malposition
- Inferior Medial Border Prominence
- Coracoid Pain and Malposition
- dysKinesis of Scapular Movement



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Dyskinesis / Labral Injury

- Dyskinesis – 94% clinical labral injuries
- Risk factor in “cascade to injury”
- Protracted scapula
- Labral / rotator cuff compression
- Labral shear with arm rotation
- “Internal impingement”



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Scapular Dyskinesis – 2 (Medial Border)

- Associated with symptomatic shoulders
- Cause?, effect – part of altered anatomy, physiology, mechanics
- Evaluate, treat as indicated



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Scapula Assistance Test

Corrective Manuevers:

- Scapular Assistance Test (SAT)
Assist scapula upward rotation/posterior tilt
(+) – relief of external impingement
sx
Kibler et al AJSM 1998
Habin et al, JOSPT, 2006



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Scapular Winging



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Scapula Winging



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AC Joint Injuries



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EVIDENCE-BASED PHYSICAL EXAMINATION FOR THE ACROMIOMCLAVICULAR JOINT: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW
Stephen M. Hartman,1* Michael P. Kettner,2 Andrew D. Dillan,3
Donald C. Hovelius,4 Paulus McCormick,5 &
William A. Roberts6
AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE & REHABILITATION
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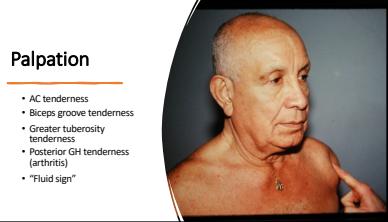


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Betzel, Mazzucco, Imhoff, ISANDS Upper Extremity Committee et al., Arthroscopy, 2008

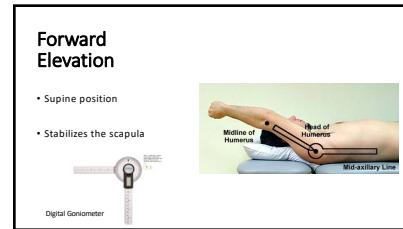
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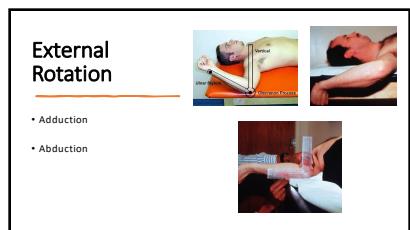
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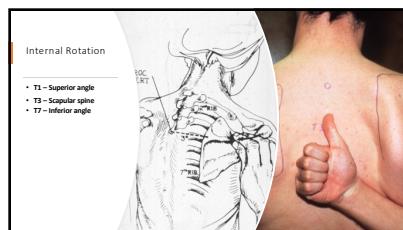
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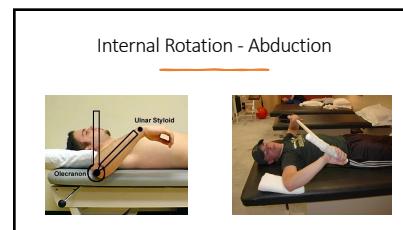
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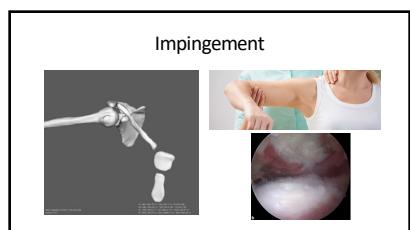
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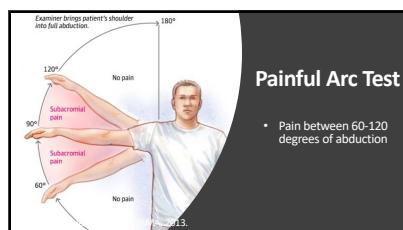
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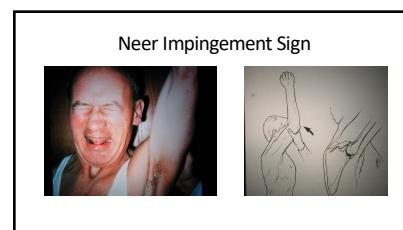
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Hawkin's-Kennedy Test

Pain with flexion to 90 degrees and internal rotation



HAWKINS-KENNEDY TEST



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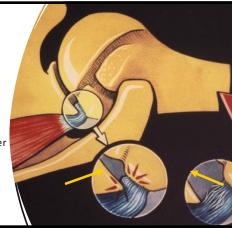
Impingement Injection Test

• Positive if impingement sign is negative after injection



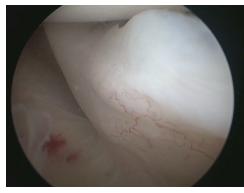
Internal Impingement

- Posterior Shoulder Pain
- Relieved By Relocation Maneuver



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Internal Impingement

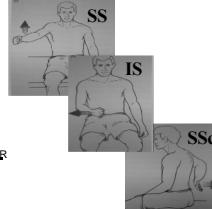


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Cuff Exam Basics

Supraspinatus (SS)

- Initiates abduction & flexion
- Need deltoid and sufficient depression for abduction



Infraspinatus (IS) - Primary ER

Subscapularis (SSc) - Primary IR

Teres minor - Primary ER

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Jobe (Empty Can) Test



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The champeau test position isolates the supraspinatus better than the Jobe test: an electromyographic study of shoulder physical examination tests

Peter N. Chalmers, MD*, Gregory L. Cooperman, MD, Brian K. Kupfer, MA, Michael J. Pash, PhD, Brian J. Cole, PhD, Anthony A. Romeo, MD, Gregory P. Nicholas, MD

Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Rothman Institute, Philadelphia, PA, USA

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EMG Analysis



Physical Examination

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The champeau test position isolates the supraspinatus better than the Jobe test: an electromyographic study of shoulder physical examination tests

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Conclusion: Champeau test position:

- Mild ER
- 30° of flexion

Better isolates the function of the supraspinatus from the deltoid than Jobe's empty can position.

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External Rotation

- Infraspinatus
- Posterior Deltoid
- Teres Minor



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External Rotation Lag Sign

- Confirm full-thickness rotator cuff tear
- 94% Specificity
- 7.2 Positive Likelihood Ratio

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Infraspinatus

- Infraspinatus represent 60% of the strength in ER in normal conditions (without hypertrophy of the TM)
- If infraspinatus is intact, useless to try to test the weak teres minor!
- Test your infraspinatus in ER at 20° of abd

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External Rotation in Abduction Lag Sign "Hornblower"

Teres Minor (+ Infraspinatus)

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Internal Rotation

- Subscapularis
- Pectoralis Major
- Latissimus Dorsi
- Teres Major

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Subscapularis

Subscapularis
Strongest Rotator Cuff Muscle
50% of Power Output
Lift off Test

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Subscapularis

Belly Press Test (Gerber) Bear Hug Test (Burkhart)

The bear-hug test: a new and sensitive test for diagnosing a subscapularis tear. Burkhart SS, De Beer JF. Arthroscopy 2006;22:

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Diagnostic value of four clinical tests for the evaluation of subscapularis integrity

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Conclusions
A positive lift-off test was highly specific for the detection of a full-thickness subscapularis tear and to reflect severe fatty degeneration.

The 4 clinical tests are useful for estimating subscapularis status and function in busy outpatient clinics.

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Latissimus (Teres Major) Tear

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Pectoralis Major Tear

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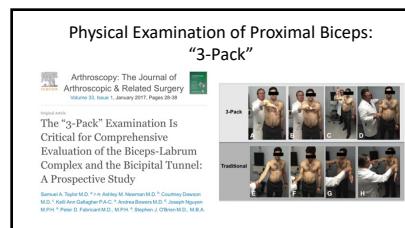
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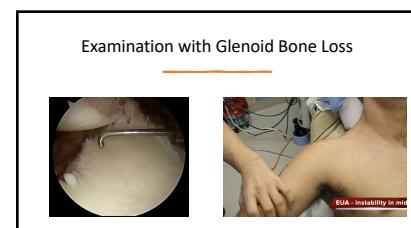
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**Jerk Test:
Posterior Instability**

- Positive test: reproduces pain or discomfort
- Sitting position, axial directed force with arm flexed, adducted, IR. Bring arm into extension to reduce subluxed humeral head



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**Sulcus sign:
Multidirectional
(Inferior)
Instability**



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Differential Diagnosis

1. Instability
2. AC arthritis or osteolysis
3. Calcific tendinitis
4. Adhesive capsulitis
5. Coracoid impingement
6. Cervical spine
7. Suprascapular nerve palsy
8. Parsonage-Turner syndrome
9. Rotator Cuff Tear
10. Arthritis



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Physical Examination Overview

- Observation
- Palpation
- Motion
- Painful Arc: Pain between 60° and 120°
- Neer/Hawkins Impingement
- Lag signs
- AC tenderness/Cross-Body Adduction
- Biceps tenderness, Speed/Yergason
- Instability Testing



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Thank you!



Chicago

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Thank you!

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