
Learning Objectives

MedBridge

Peripheral Neuropathies Part 1: Diagnostics, Examination, and Treatment

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Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, learners will be able to:

- Describe an overview of the anatomy and pathophysiology of peripheral and cranial nerves
- Describe classification of peripheral nerve injuries and expected recovery
- Develop a further understanding of the role of diagnostics in the care of the patient
- Identify key examination procedures most applicable when assessing a patient with peripheral and/or cranial nerve involvement
- Improved understanding of the effect peripheral neuropathies have on posture and balance
- Develop an understanding of how to prioritize patient impairments in order to determine and prescribe treatment that enhances functional capabilities for patients with peripheral neuropathies
- Describe the current evidence and determine clinically indicated uses for Physical Agents in the rehabilitation process with persons with peripheral nerve involvement
- Apply evidence for management of peripheral neuropathies through case based examples and learning assessments

Chapter 1: Peripheral and Cranial Nerve: Anatomy, Pathophysiology and Diagnostics

This chapter will review anatomy, common underlying pathologies, and causative factors of common peripheral and cranial nerve injuries. It will cover classification of nerve injuries and recovery. The importance of the role of diagnostics in the care of the client including Electroneurodiagnostics and Laboratory Diagnostic Testing will be discussed.

Chapter 2: Patient Presentation: Evaluating the Patient with Signs and Symptoms Related to Peripheral Neuropathies

This chapter will review the importance of obtaining a pertinent history and performing a systematic physical therapy examination in aiding to identify signs and symptoms of peripheral and cranial nerve injuries. The effects of peripheral neuropathy on posture and balance will also be covered.

Chapter 3: Physical Therapy Interventions for Nerve Involvement: Management of Symptoms and Treatment Interventions

This chapter will identify and describe the rationale and application of commonly used therapy approaches to manage peripheral neuropathies including patient/client instruction, adaptive equipment, functional retraining and manual techniques. Current evidence supporting the use of physical agents with emphasis on electrical stimulation, ultrasound, and low level laser therapy in the treatment of patients with peripheral neuropathies will be discussed.