



OSCE Checklist: Paediatric Abdominal Examination

Introduction		
1	Wash your hands and don PPE if appropriate	
2	Introduce yourself to the parents and the child, including your name and role	
3	Confirm the child's name and date of birth	
4	Briefly explain what the examination will involve using patient-friendly language	
5	Gain consent from the parents/carers and/or child before proceeding	
General inspection		
6	Observe the child in their environment (e.g. waiting room, hospital bed) and take note of their appearance and behaviour	
Hands		
7	Inspect the hands for clinical signs relevant to the gastrointestinal system	
8	Palpate the radial pulse, assessing the heart rate and rhythm (femoral pulse in babies)	
Face		
9	Inspect the face and eyes for signs relevant to the gastrointestinal system (e.g. scleral icterus, oedema, pallor)	
10	Inspect the mouth and throat for signs relevant to the gastrointestinal system (e.g. glossitis, angular stomatitis, aphthous ulceration)	
Neck		
11	Palpate the supraclavicular fossa on each side, paying particular attention to Virchow's node on the left for evidence of lymphadenopathy	
Close inspection of the abdomen		
12	Inspect the child's abdomen for signs suggestive of gastrointestinal pathology	
Examining the abdomen		
13	Perform light palpation of the nine abdominal regions	
14	Perform deep palpation of the nine abdominal regions	
15	Perform liver palpation and percussion	
16	Perform splenic palpation and percussion	
17	Ballot the kidneys	
18	Assess for shifting dullness	
19	Auscultate bowel sounds	
Genital examination		
20	Consider genital examination if relevant	

Rectal examination		
21	Inspect the rectum if relevant (e.g. imperforate anus, anal skin tags)	
Lower limbs		
22	Inspect for pedal oedema	
To complete the examination...		
23	Explain to the child and parents that the examination is now finished	
24	Ensure the child is re-dressed after the examination	
25	Thank the child and parents for their time	
26	Explain your findings to the parents	
27	Ask if the parents and child (if appropriate) have any questions	
28	Dispose of PPE appropriately and wash your hands	
29	Summarise your findings to the examiner	
30	Suggest further assessments and investigations (e.g. vital signs, nutritional assessment, urinalysis)	

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