



OSCE Checklist: Peripheral Vascular Examination

Introduction		
1	Wash your hands and don PPE if appropriate	
2	Introduce yourself to the patient including your name and role	
3	Confirm the patient's name and date of birth	
4	Briefly explain what the examination will involve using patient-friendly language	
5	Gain consent to proceed with the examination	
6	Position the patient on the bed, with the head of the bed at 45°	
7	Adequately expose the patient's limbs and abdomen for the examination (offer a blanket to allow exposure only when required)	
8	Ask the patient if they have any pain before proceeding with the clinical examination	
General inspection		
9	Inspect for clinical signs suggestive of underlying pathology (e.g. missing limbs/digits, scars)	
Upper limbs		
10	Inspect and compare the upper limbs	
11	Assess and compare the temperature of the upper limbs	
12	Assess the capillary refill time of the upper limbs	
13	Palpate the radial pulse	
14	Assess for radio-radial delay	
15	Palpate the brachial pulse	
16	Offer to measure the patient's blood pressure	
Carotid pulse		
17	Auscultate the carotid artery	
18	Palpate the carotid pulse	
Abdomen		
19	Inspect the abdomen for visible pulsations	
20	Palpate the aorta	
21	Auscultate the aorta and renal arteries	
Lower limbs		
22	Inspect and compare the lower limbs	
23	Assess and compare the temperature of the lower limbs	
24	Assess the capillary refill time of the lower limbs	
25	Palpate the femoral pulse	

26	Assess for radio-femoral delay	
27	Auscultate over the femoral pulse	
28	Palpate the popliteal pulse	
29	Palpate the posterior tibial pulse	
30	Palpate the dorsalis pedis pulse	
31	Assess gross peripheral sensation	
Buerger's test		
32	With the patient positioned supine, stand at the bottom of the bed and raise both of the patient's feet to 45° for 1-2 minutes	
33	Observe the colour of the limbs	
34	Sit the patient up and ask them to hang their legs down over the side of the bed	
To complete the examination...		
35	Explain that the examination is now finished to the patient	
36	Thank the patient for their time	
37	Dispose of PPE appropriately and wash your hands	
38	Summarise your findings	
39	Suggest further assessments and investigations (e.g. blood pressure measurement, cardiovascular examination, ABPI)	

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