

SIGNS, TRIADS, LAWS, AND PHENOMENONS

SIGN

An indication of the existence of something, any objective evidence of a disease; such evidence as is perceptible to the examiner, as opposed to the subjective sensations (symptoms) of the patient

TRIAD

A group of three entities or objects as an association of three symptoms

LAW

A uniform or constant fact or principle

PHENOMEN

Any sign or objective symptom, any observable occurrence or fact

Aaron's Sign

Epigastric pain/distress with pressure applied to M^cBurney's point. Seen in acute appendicitis.

Adrenomedullary Triad

The symptoms produced by activation of the adrenal medulla; tachycardia, vasoconstriction & sweating

Allen's Paradoxical law

Whereas in normal individual the more glucose is given the more is utilized, the reverse is true in diabetics

Aschner's Phenomenon

Slowing of the pulse following pressure on the eyeball; indicative of cardiac vagus irritability.

Ashman's Phenomenon

Aberrant ventricular activation resulting in a short cardiac cycle following a long or normal cycle associated with supraventricular premature complexes and with atrial fibrillation.

Aufrecht's Sign

Noisy breathing heard just above the suprasternal notch, indicative of tracheal stenosis

Average Localization Law

Visceral pain is most accurately localized in the least mobile organ.

Babinski's Phenomenon

Dorsiflexion of the great toe and spreading of the other toes instead of plantar flexion of all the toes when the sole is stimulated; a sign of damage to the corticospinal tract in adults.

Babinski's Sign

Dorsiflexion of the great toe on stimulation of the sole of the foot; indicates lesions to the pyramidal tract, and indicates organic rather than hysterical hemiplegia.

Ballance's Sign

Hyporesonance of right flank when patient lies on left side; suggest splenic rupture

Ballet's Sign

Loss of all voluntary eye movements, but persistence of pupillary and reflex movements; seen in Grave's Disease

Battle's Sign

Discoloration in the line of the posterior auricular artery, first appearing near the tip of the mastoid process; seen in fractures to the base of the skull.

Beck's Sign or Triad

High venous pressure (JVD), low arterial pressure, & muffled heart tones; seen in cardiac tamponade

Bell's Phenomenon

An outward and upward rolling of the eyes on the attempt to close the eyes; occurs on the affected side in peripheral facial paralysis (Bell's palsy)

Blumberg's Sign

Rebound tenderness

Broadbent's Inverted Sign

Pulsations synchronized with ventricular systole on the posterior lateral wall of the chest; seen in gross left ventricular hypertrophy.

Brudzinski's Sign

Flexion of the neck results in flexion of the hip and knee; seen in meningitis.

Cantelli's Sign

Doll's eyes

Commemorative Sign

A sign left from a previous disease

Cullen's Sign

Ecchymosis surrounding the umbilicus; associated with intraperitoneal bleeds, especially in ruptured ectopic pregnancy or acute hemorrhagic pancreatitis. Sometimes called Turner's Sign.

Cushing's Phenomenon

A rise in systemic blood pressure as a result of increased intracranial pressure.

Elliot's Law

The activity of epinephrine is due to the stimulation of the endings of the sympathetic nerve

Hamman's Sign

A precordial click, crunch, or knock heard with each heartbeat on auscultation; heard with pneumothorax, mediastinitis, and pneumomediastinum

Homan's Sign

Pain on passive dorsiflexion of the foot; sign of Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT).

Kehr's Sign

Severe pain in the left shoulder in some cases of splenic rupture.

Kernig's Sign

In dorsal decubitus, the patient can easily and completely extend the leg, in the sitting position, or when lying with the thigh flexed upon the abdomen, the leg cannot be completely extended. A sign of meningitis.

Laplace's Law

The blood pressure produced in the ventricles depends not only on the tension developed by the cardiac ventricular muscle in contraction (Starling's Law) but also on the size and shape of the heart

M^cBurney's Sign

Tenderness at a point two thirds the distance from the umbilicus to the superior anterior iliac crest; indicative of appendicitis

Mayo's Sign

Relaxation of the muscles controlling the lower jaw; indicative of profound anesthesia.

Murphy's Sign

Interruption of deep inspiration when the examiners fingers are pressed deeply beneath the right costal arch, below the hepatic margin; sign of gallbladder disease.

Oliver's Sign

Tracheal tugging; also Porter's Sign

Psoas Sign

Flexion of or pain on hyperextension of the hip due to contact between an inflammatory process and the psoas muscle; seen in appendicitis. Also called Cope's Sign.

Rovsing's Sign

Pressure on the left side over the point corresponding to M^cBurney's point will elicit the typical pain at M^cBurney's point; seen in appendicitis.

Schellong-Strisower Phenomenon

A fall in systolic blood pressure on assuming an erect posture from a supine posture.

Setting Sun Sign

Downward deviation of the eyes so that each iris appears to "set" beneath the lower lid with white sclera exposed between it and the upper lid; indicative of increased intracranial pressure or irritation of the brain stem

Starling's Law

- 1) The energy set free at each contraction of the heart is a simple function of the length of the fibers composing its muscular walls.
 - 2) The heart output per beat is directly proportional to the diastolic filling
- Also referred to as the Law of the Heart.

Trousseau's Phenomenon

Spasmodic contractions of muscles provoked by pressure upon the nerves that stimulate; seen in tetanay.

Wenckebach's Phenomenon

The generation of impulses by the sinus node of the heart at a constant rate while the P-R interval grows progressively longer during several beats until an atrial complex is not followed by a ventricular complex.