Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation: Core EPA 6

Selecting and interpreting investigations relevant to Physiatry

Key Features:

- This EPA includes identifying the indications for an investigation and discussing the risks and benefits with the patient; interpreting the quality of the study and its findings; and, counselling the patient on the results and effectiveness.
- This EPA is divided into two parts: interpreting electrodiagnostic testing; interpreting other investigations
- Interpreting electrodiagnostic testing includes interpretation of nerve conduction studies and/or electromyography reports, both simple and complex; complex studies are defined as presentations that are beyond a simple focal entrapment neuropathy (e.g., median or ulnar neuropathy) or radiculopathy.
- Interpreting other investigations includes interpretation of the results of a variety of investigations for the purposes of developing or modifying a management plan. This includes cardiac stress tests, diagnostic blocks, gait lab analyses, intra-thecal trials or pump refills, PFTs, shunt assessments, sleep studies, swallowing studies, urodynamic studies, and image-guided procedures
- This EPA may be assessed in the clinical setting or using simulated cases.

Assessment Plan:

Part A: Interpreting electrodiagnostic testing (NCS/EMG)
Direct and/or indirect observation by physiatrist or non-physiatrist physician with appropriate skill set; with feedback from TTP trainee or other health professionals such as technicians, nurses, or physician assistants

Use form 1. Form collects information on:

- Observation type: direct; indirect
- Setting: consultation service; inpatient unit; outpatient clinic; electrodiagnostic clinic; simulation
- Procedure (check all that apply): lower limb; upper limb; cranial/trunk
- Complexity: low; high

Collect 20 observations of achievement.

- At least 10 upper limb
- At least 10 lower limb
- At least 5 complex cases
- No more than 3 simulated
- At least 3 observers

Part B: Interpreting other investigations
Direct and/or indirect observation by physiatrist or non-physiatrist physician with appropriate skill set; with feedback from TTP trainee or other health professionals such as technicians, nurses, or physician assistants

Use form 1. Form collects information on:

- Observation type: direct; indirect
- Setting: consultation service; inpatient unit; outpatient clinic; electrodiagnostic clinic; simulation

- Procedure: cardiac stress test; diagnostic block; gait lab analysis; intra-thecal trial or pump refill; PFT; shunt assessment; sleep study; swallowing study; urodynamic studies; image-guided procedure

Collect 6 observations of achievement.
- At least 3 different procedures
- No more than 3 simulated
- At least 3 observers

Relevant Milestones

Part A: Interpreting electrodiagnostic tests
ME 2.2 Assess a patient's suitability to proceed with electrodiagnostic testing

ME 3.2. Obtain and document informed consent, explaining the risks and benefits of, and the rationale for the proposed procedure

ME 1.3 Apply knowledge of neuromuscular anatomy and electrophysiology

ME 1.3 Apply knowledge of principles, strengths and limitations of diagnostic investigations

ME 2.2 Assess the quality and validity of the study, and any impact on the diagnostic interpretation

ME 2.2 Interpret the results of electrodiagnostic testing in the context of the clinical presentation

ME 2.4 Integrate the results of electrodiagnostic testing into the patient centered management plan

COM 3.1 Convey results of electrodiagnostic testing to the patient clearly and compassionately

Part B: Interpreting other investigations

ME 1.3 Apply knowledge of principles, strengths and limitations of diagnostic investigations

ME 2.2 Interpret the results of investigations in the context of the clinical presentation

ME 2.4 Integrate the results of investigations into the patient centered management plan

COM 3.1 Convey results of investigations to the patient clearly and compassionately