

CAP37 Weakness and Paralysis

The trainee will be able to assess a patient presenting with motor weakness to produce a valid differential diagnosis, investigate appropriately, formulate and implement a management plan (see also 'Speech Disturbance' and 'Abnormal Sensation (Paraesthesia and Numbness)')		
Knowledge	Assessment Methods	GMP Domains
Broadly outline the physiology and neuro-anatomy of the components of the motor system	E, C, Mi, ACAT	1
Recall the myotomal distribution of nerve roots, peripheral nerves, and tendon reflexes	E, C, Mi, ACAT	1
Recall the clinical features of upper and lower motor neurone, neuromuscular junction and muscular lesions	E, C, Mi, ACAT	1
Recall the common and important causes for lesions at the sites listed above	E, C, Mi, ACAT	1
Recall tools for the classification of stroke, and prognosis	E, C, Mi, ACAT	1
Recognise the systemic implications of muscular weakness involving the respiratory and bulbar muscles, including need for airway protection and ventilatory support	E, C, Mi, ACAT	1
Demonstrate knowledge of investigations for acute presentation, including indications for urgent head CT and stroke thrombolysis	E, C, Mi, ACAT	1
Know national guidelines for the management of stroke and TIA	E, C, Mi, ACAT	1
Recognise acquired ICU paresis and understand its implications for ongoing care	E, C, Mi, ACAT	1
Skills		
Elucidate speed of onset and risk factors for neurological dysfunction	E, Mi, C	1
Perform full examination to elicit signs of systemic disease and neurological dysfunction and identify associated deficits	E, D	1

Describe likely site of lesion in motor system and produce differential diagnosis	E, Mi, C	1
Order, interpret and act on initial investigations for motor weakness appropriately	E, Mi, C	1
Recognise when swallowing may be unsafe and manage appropriately	Mi, C	1
Detect spinal cord compromise and investigate promptly	Mi, C	1
Perform tests on respiratory function and inform seniors and specialists appropriately	E, D	1
Ensure appropriate care: thromboprophylaxis, pressure areas	Mi, C, AA	1
Behaviour		
Recognise importance of timely assessment and treatment of patients presenting with acute motor weakness	ACAT, C	2
Consult senior and acute stroke service, if available, as appropriate	ACAT, C	3
Recognise patient and carer's distress when presenting with acute motor weakness	ACAT, C, PS	2
Consult senior when rapid progressive motor weakness or impaired consciousness is present	ACAT, C	3
Involve speech and language therapists appropriately	ACAT, C	3
Contribute to multi-disciplinary approach	ACAT, C	3, 4