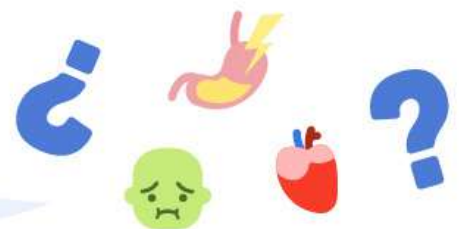


SEQUENCE FOR PERFORMING A CLINICAL EXAMINATION.



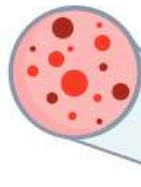
The purpose of the physical examination is to look for the presence, or absence, of physical signs that confirm or refute the differential diagnoses you have obtained from the history. The extent of the examination will depend on the symptoms that you are investigating and the circumstances of the encounter.



With experience, you will develop your own style and sequence of physical examination. Broadly speaking, any systematic examination involves:

INSPECTION

Looking at the patient for skin changes, scars, abnormal patterns of breathing or pulsation, for example.



PALPATION

Laying hands on the patient to palpate/feel.



AUSCULTATION

using a stethoscope, where appropriate, to listen to the relevant system.



PERCUSSION/PERCUSS

Tapping on the body



ELSEVIER

Source: *Macleod's Clinical Examination*
by Anna R. Dover

Available in print and on **ClinicalKey** Student

