



# Lymphatic Examination

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# Communication skills

- Meet & greet
- Introduce yourself
- Get approval for examination
  
- **Hand washing**

# HISTORY

- **Age**
- **Duration**
- **Symptoms**
- **First affected group**
- **Primary focus**
- **Past history**
- **Family history**

# Age

- **Acute lymphadenitis** can occur at any age.
- **Tuberculous lymphadenopathy & syphilis** occur at young age.
- **Primary malignant lymphomas** occur at young age.
- **Secondary malignant (metastatic) lymphadenopathy** occurs in old age.

# Duration

- **Short** in acute lymphadenitis.
- **Long** in chronic lymphadenitis, eg tuberculosis.

# Symptoms

- Swelling
- Pain
  - **painful** in both acute & chronic lymphadenitis.
  - **painless** in syphilis, primary malignant lymphomas & secondary carcinoma.

- **Fever**

- **Evening** fever in tuberculosis.
- In filariasis a **periodic** fever (esp. during the full or new moon) is common.
- In Hodgkin's disease **intermittent** bouts of remittent fever.

- **Loss of appetite & weight**

- **Pressure effects**

- **Swelling of face & neck**

- due to enlarged superior mediastinal nodes or nodes at the root of neck.

- **Edema & venous congestion of lower limbs**

- Due to enlarged retroperitoneal & para-aortic nodes.

- **Dyspnea** in enlarged mediastinal nodes.

- **Dysphagia** when esophagus is compressed.



# First affected group

- **Cervical lymph nodes** first affected in many cases of Hodgkin's disease, & tuberculosis.
- **Inguinal lymph nodes** first affected in filariasis, & lymphogranuloma inguinale.

# Primary focus

- Enquire about the symptoms in the **drainage area** of lymph nodes.
- An insignificant abrasion or inflammation in the drainage area may lead to lymphadenitis.

# Past history

- enlarged **cervical** nodes in past tuberculosis (cervical node or lung).
- enlarged **iliac** nodes in recurrent penile or testicular carcinoma.
- Enlarged **epi-trochlear & suboccipital** nodes may occur in the secondary stage of syphilis.

# Family history

- **Sometimes tuberculosis runs in families.**
- **Lymphosarcoma & lymphomas have also familial tendency.**

# LOCAL EXAMINATION

- Inspection
- Palpation

# Inspection

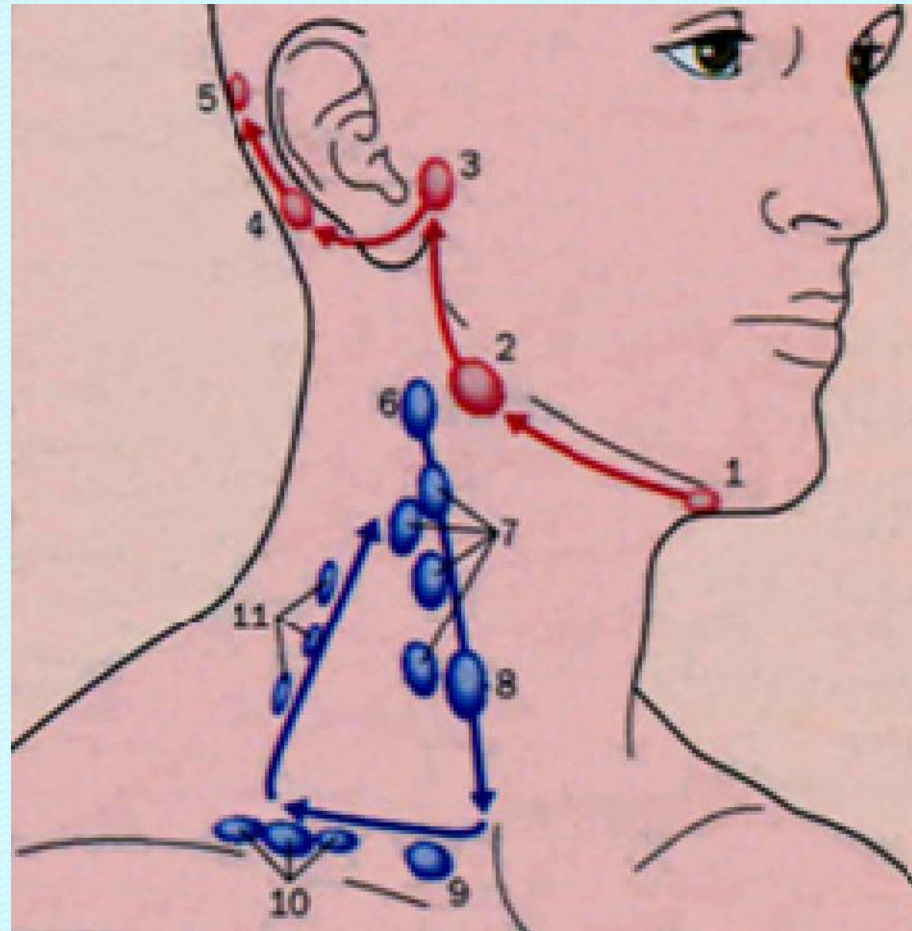
- **Swellings**
  - **Site, size, shape,**
  - **surface, edge,**
  - **overlying skin,**
  - **pulsation,**
  - **cough impulse,**
  - **number, &**
  - **pressure effect.**

# Palpation

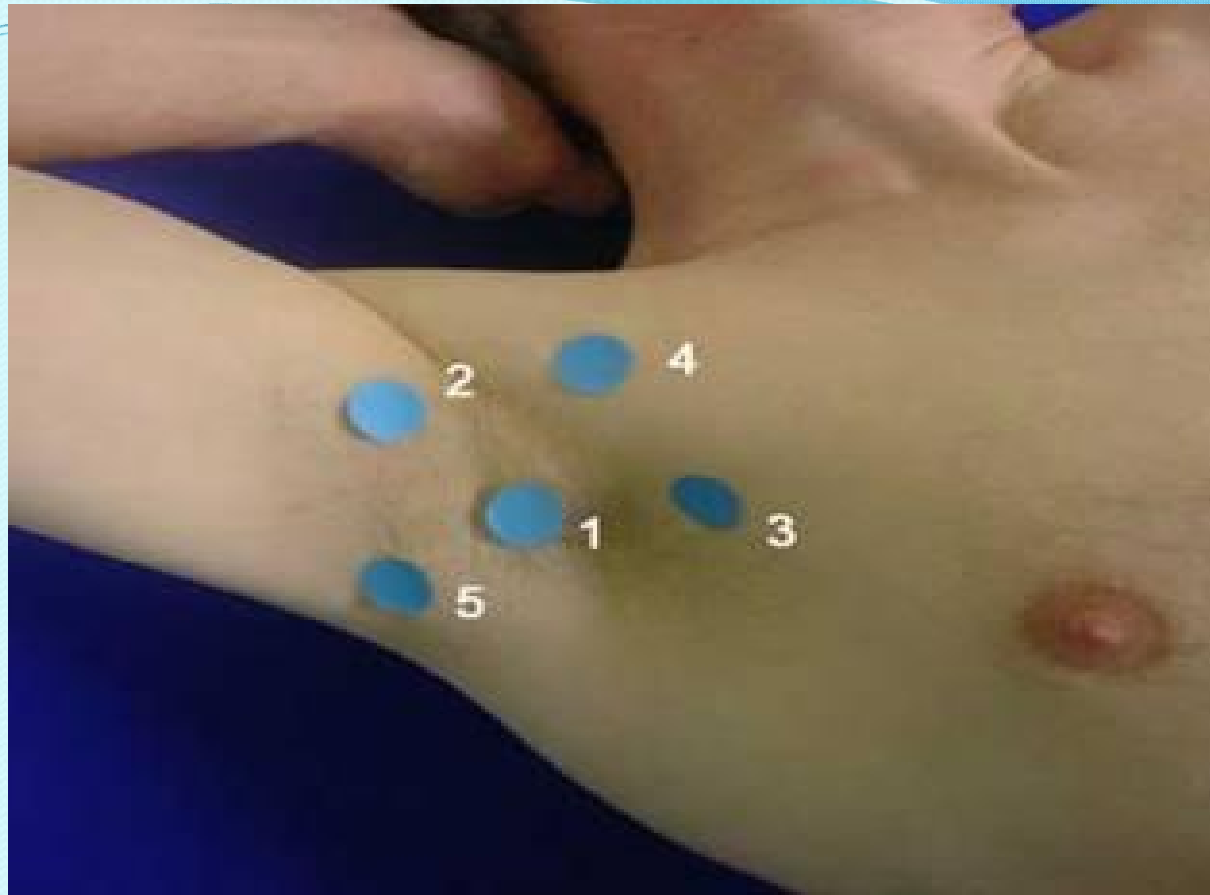
- **temperature, tenderness,**
- **site, size, shape,**
- **surface, edge,**
- **consistency,**
- **fluctuation, translucency,**
- **cough impulse, reducibility,**
- **compressibility, pulsatility, &**
- **mobility.**

# Cervical lymph node scheme

Submental →  
submandibular →  
preauricular →  
postauricular →  
occipital →  
jugulo-digastric →  
anterior cervical  
(internal jugular) →  
jugulo-omohyoid →  
scalene →  
supraclavicular →  
posterior cervical  
(external jugular).





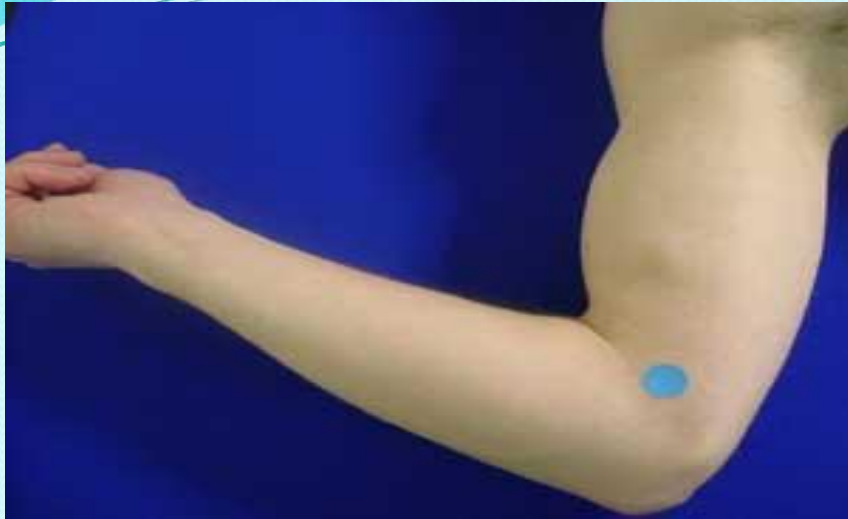


1. MEDIAL (CENTRAL)
2. LATERAL (BRACHIAL)
3. ANTERIOR (PECTORAL)
4. INFRACLAVICULAR
5. POSTERIOR (SUBSCAPULAR)

# Axillary lymph node scheme



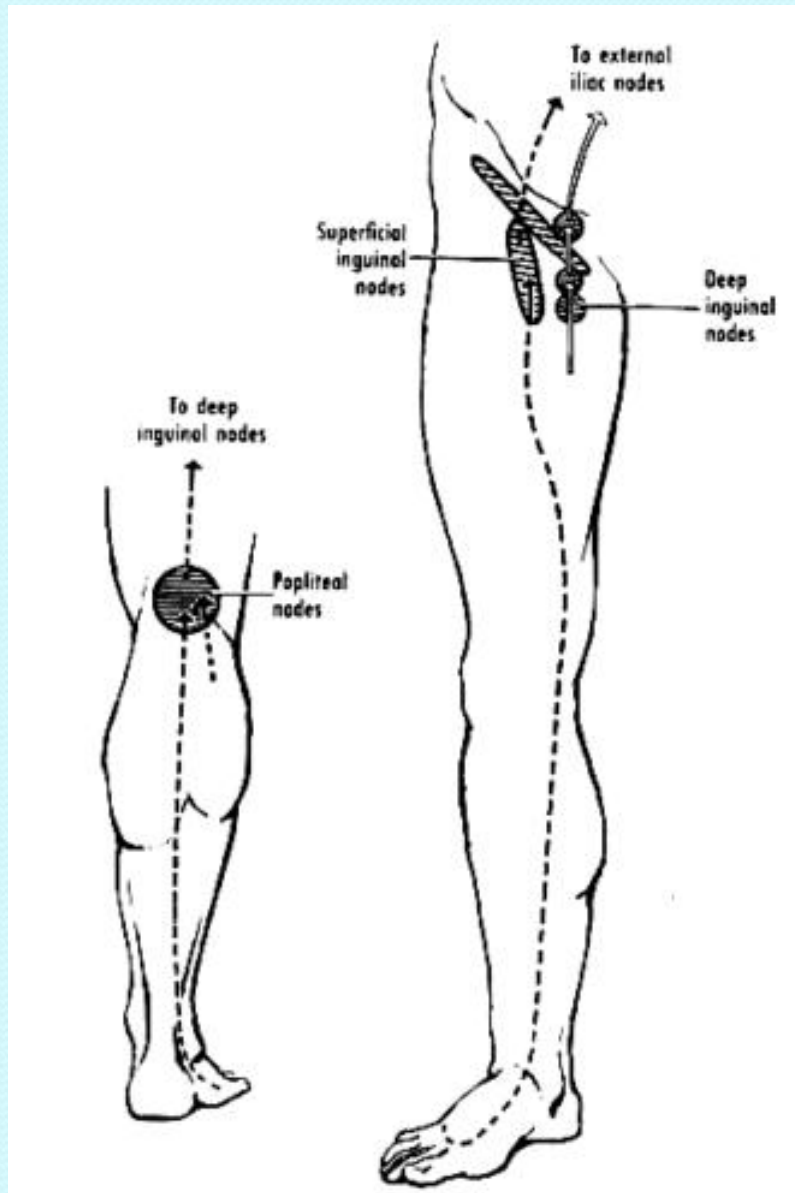
**Anterior group, medial (& apical) group,  
lateral group, posterior group, &  
supraclavicular nodes**



**Epitrochlear nodes**



# Inguinal lymph node scheme



# DRAINAGE AREA EXAMINATION

- **Cervical & supraclavicular nodes.**

- **Submental node** → Chin, central lip, gingiva, floor of mouth & tip of tongue.
- **Submandibular nodes** → Palate, tongue, floor of mouth, lower lip, cheek, gingiva, nose & antrum.
- **Jugular chain** → Tongue, mouth, pharynx, larynx, upper esophagus & thyroid gland.
- **Tonsillar node** → Tonsil.
- **Supraclavicular nodes** → If left supraclavicular (Virchow's) nodes are enlarged (Troisier's sign), one should examine not only the arm, breast & chest (bronchus) but also the abdomen right down to the testis.

- **Axillary lymph nodes**

- **Ipsilateral upper limb.**
- **Ipsilateral half of the skin of trunk, extending from the clavicle to the level of umbilicus (including the breasts).**

- **Inguinal lymph node**

- **Ipsilateral lower limb.**
- **Skin of the lower part of the abdomen below the level of the umbilicus.**
- **Buttock & lower part of the back.**
- **Penis & scrotum.**
- **Perineum, vulva & anus.**
- **Terminal parts of the anal canal, urethra & vagina.**

# DON'T FORGET TO EXAMINE

- **Other regional lymph nodes**
- **General examination**
  - **Malnutrition, cachexia, anemia & weight loss.**
- **Examination of abdomen**
  - **includes rectal, vaginal & scrotal examination.**
  - **Hepatosplenomegaly & mesenteric & iliac lymphadenopathy may be found in hodgkin's disease.**
- **Examination of lungs**
  - **In cases of cervical lymphadenopathy.**



**The End!**