Sharp Purser Test

Name	Date

The Sharp Purser Test is a clinical maneuver used to assess the stability of the atlanto-axial joint in the cervical spine. This joint is formed between the first (atlas) and second (axis) vertebrae, allowing for head rotation.

Instructions

1. Ask the patient to either sit on a chair or stand comfortably. Make sure they are relaxed and in a stable position.
2. Stand behind the patient, ensuring a clear view of their head and neck.
3. Place one hand on the patient's forehead, gently cupping it. This hand will provide support and control during the test.
4. With your other hand, gently palpate the posterior aspect of the patient's axis (the second cervical vertebra), located just below the base of the skull.
5. Explain to the patient what you will be doing and reassure them that you will apply a gentle force to their forehead.
6. Keeping the patient's neck slightly flexed, use your hand on their forehead to apply a gentle, posteriorly directed force.
7. Observe the patient's response and ask them to report any pain or discomfort during the test. Pay attention to any excessive movement or a palpable "clunk" sensation.
8. Once you have applied the force and gathered the necessary information, gently release the pressure on the patient's forehead.

Reminders

- Always prioritize patient comfort and safety throughout the test.
- Ensure that the patient is in a stable position and maintains good body mechanics to avoid strain or injury.
- Use gentle force during the test, being cautious not to apply excessive pressure that could cause discomfort or harm.
- Maintain clear communication with the patient, encouraging them to provide feedback on their experience during the test.
- It's essential to only perform the Sharp-Purser Test if you are trained and competent in cervical spine assessment and manipulation.
- Remember that the Sharp Purser Test is just one component of a comprehensive evaluation, and further diagnostic tests may be necessary for a conclusive diagnosis.

Additional notes