**Description of fifty diagnostic tests used with osteopathic manipulation** -

Abstract: Fifty diagnostic tests used during videotaped examination and treatment of patients with low

back complaint by five osteopathic physicians are described. The tests have been assigned to five

classes: general impression, regional motion testing, position of landmarks, superficial and deep tissue

evaluation, and local response to motion demand. Considerable variation was encountered among the

physicians in choice of test and use of a single test in one or more modes or test class. Test selection and

sequence were influenced by the conceptual orientation of the physician, patient position, outcome of

previous tests, the status of developing hypotheses about the patient's problem(s), and the accessibility

of the problem to treatment and to monitoring of its progress. Distinctions among the fifty tests and

differentiation between treatment and diagnostic tests were often obscured. Nevertheless, each

physician appeared to follow an orderly process of diagnostic inference leading to treatment. The tests

and classification system provide a useful descriptive and analytical tool for research into osteopathic

manipulation.

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