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Dermatomes

Appendix

Dermatomes are cutaneous areas on the body that indicate specific peripheral nerve innervation. During the assessment process, the massage therapist can inquire about specific areas of pain and then use a dermatome

map to help determine the true source of the client's difficulty or discomfort. (Illustrations are provided by Anatomical Chart Co.)

Cutaneous areas of peripheral nerve innervation

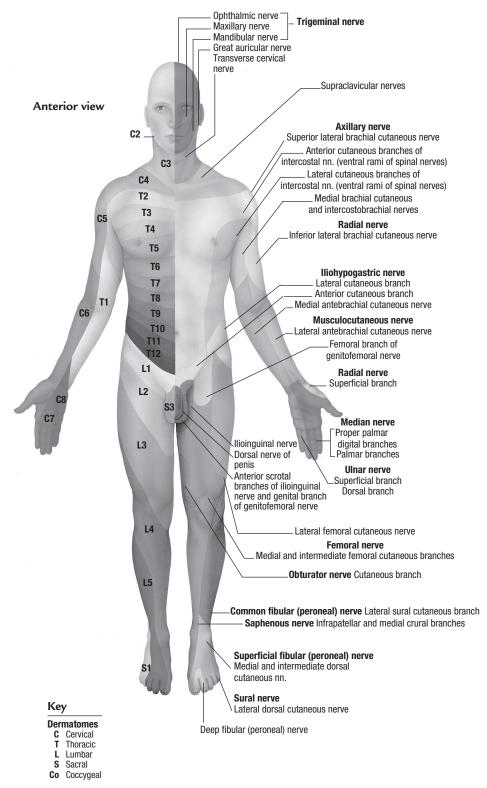
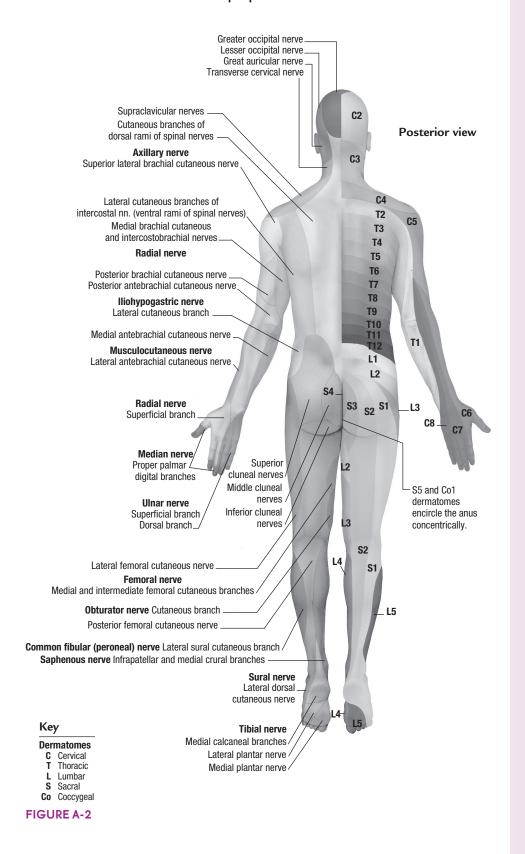


FIGURE A-1

Cutaneous areas of peripheral nerve innervation



Appendix

B

SOAP Note Example

Here is a short, simple example of a SOAP note chart. The necessary information can be adapted for the therapist's working environment. Spas often prefer a space-saving 3 \times 5-inch index card format, while a clinical setting may use a full 8.5 \times 11-inch page

inserted into a file folder. In any case, basic or detailed documentation provides for effective and safe future client care.

The following example is a SOAP note created for a client with cerebral palsy.

SUBJECTIVE	Client states spasms are worse today because of a family party, which required multiple preparations and ended in a lot of stress. States back is in constant spasm.
OBJECTIVE	Client's back muscles are hypertonic: lumbar region in spasm. Client positioned prone with pillows under head and upper chest. Warm towels and compression applied to back. Slow, moderate kneading, petrissage, and effleurage applied to cervical spine, thoracic spine, and lumbar spine muscles More time spent on lumbar region. Gluteal muscles kneaded slowly. Medium pressure stroking to entire posterior body to finish session.
ASSESSMENT	Client's spasms reduced. Client fell asleep. Appears more relaxed than at beginning of session.
PLAN	Reminded client to perform deep breathing exercises during times of stress. Suggested he returns in one week for more work on hypertonic back. Suggested his wife attend next massage therapy session to learn some back massage techniques that could help in between sessions.

FIGURE B-1

Appendix

C

A Sample Homework Form

To help ensure a client meets therapeutic goals, the therapist can assign specific self-care exercises. Here is one example for a client who has experienced a stroke and is now trying to regain strength and balance. Compliance improves if:

- The homework is demonstrated by the therapist;
- The client then performs the exercises for the therapist; and
- The client is given a sheet of paper with easily understood instructions.

Client: Date:
I want you to perform the following homework assignment times per day between now and our next session. Call me if you have any questions.
Purchase a large rubber exercise ball.
Position the ball next to the wall or a very stable, nonmovable couch or chair $-$ not near a table with
edges. Start by just sitting on the ball, while holding onto the wall or furniture. Perhaps you can put
on some music or perform this exercise while watching TV.
Now begin to <u>gently bounce.</u> Start off with a very slight bounce, pushing with your legs. You may be wobbly at first, but you will gain balance in time. Slowly advance to larger bounces, remembering to push with your legs. Keep bouncing for as long as you can until you feel your legs are a little tired.
Caution: Always hold onto a firm object to help maintain your stability! When you feel too wobbly or fatigued, rest for a moment but return to the exercise as soon as you've rested.
In a very short time, you should notice real improvement. Hopefully you will be able to bounce higher and longer, your legs will get stronger, your sense of balance will improve, and your breathing will grow stronger. Plus, it can provide real entertainment for the family!
The point of this seemingly silly exercise is to: (1) improve your balance and coordination, (2) strengthen your legs, (3) improve your lung capacity, and (4) have fun!
I look forward to seeing your improvement at our next session!