

OSCE Checklist: The Abdominal Examination

Introduction	
Introduce yourself	
Wash hands	
Briefly explain to the patient what the examination involves	
Position the patient flat	
General Inspection	
Assess the patient from the end of the bed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Obvious discomfort or distention - Jaundice 	
The Hand and Arm	
Peripheral stigmata of GI or liver dysfunction	
Pulse	
Neck and Face	
Assess: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sclera - Lips - Mouth and tongue 	
Palpate lymph nodes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Submental, Submandibular, Pre-auricular, Anterior Cervical, Supraclavicular, Posterior Cervical, Post-Auricular, and Occipital 	
Abdomen	
Assess for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scars or skin changes - Stomas - Distention or visible peristalsis 	
Palpate 9 areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lightly - Deeply (if no tenderness on light palpation) 	
Auscultate for bowel sounds	
Palpate the liver	
Auscultate for liver bruits	
Ballot the kidneys	
Auscultate for renal bruits	
Palpate for abdominal aorta	
Auscultate the aorta	

Palpate for the bladder	
Completing the Examination	
Thank the patient	
To complete the examination: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Examine the hernial orifices- External genitalia examination- Digital rectal examination (DRE)	