ASSESSMENT OF THE INJURED HAND

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Assessment of the injured hand

Assessment → History

History → Examination

Examination → X-ray

If major wound, check vital signs, lie the patient down, give pain relief

Check tetanus immunisation status
Assessment of the injured hand

History

Mechanism of injury

Time of injury

General health

Occupation

Hand dominance

Cut

Crush

Shear

Puncture

Bite

Click on the links above
Assessment of the injured hand

Examination

Skin

Flexor tendon

Extensor tendon

Nerve

Artery

Joint

Bone
Assessment of the injured hand

Examination

- Skin
- Flexor tendon
- Extensor tendon
- Nerve
- Artery
- Joint
- Bone

- anatomy
- posture
- active motion
Assessment of the injured hand

Examination

- Skin
- Flexor tendon
- Extensor tendon
- Nerve
- Artery
- Joint
- Bone

Anatomy

Posture

Active motion
Assessment of the injured hand

Examination

- Skin
- Flexor tendon
- Extensor tendon
- Nerve
- Artery
- Joint
- Bone

Motor anatomy

- Posture
  - Wasting
    - Weakness
Assessment of the injured hand

Examination

Skin

Flexor tendon

Extensor tendon

Nerve

Artery

Joint

Bone

Sensory

- touch

- pin-prick

- two-point discrimination
Assessment of the injured hand

Examination
- Skin
- Flexor tendon
- Extensor tendon
- Nerve
- Artery
- Joint
- Bone

Autonomic
- sweating
Assessment of the injured hand

Examination

- Skin
- Flexor tendon
- Extensor tendon
- Nerve
- Artery
- Joint
- Bone

- Anatomy
  - Colour
  - Temperature
  - Capillary refilling
  - Allen's test
Assessment of the injured hand

Examination

- Skin
- Flexor tendon
- Extensor tendon
- Nerve
- Artery
- Joint - open
- Bone

Wound over joint

Explore to exclude joint penetration
Assessment of the injured hand

Examination
- Skin
- Flexor tendon
- Extensor tendon
- Nerve
- Artery
- Joint - closed
- Bone

Look
- deformity
- swelling

Feel
- tenderness

Move
- movement
- stability

Xray
Assessment of the injured hand

Examination
- Skin
- Flexor tendon
- Extensor tendon
- Nerve
- Artery
- Joint
- Bone

Look
- Deformity
- Swelling/bruising

Feel
- Tenderness

Move

Xray
Assessment of the injured hand
Summary

Open injuries

LIST every structure passing near the wound

PROVE each structure is intact by

examination OR exploration

RECORD your findings in the notes
Assessment of the injured hand
Summary

Closed injuries

history of injury
  + swelling
  + tenderness
= a fracture until proved otherwise by Xray
Assessment of the injured hand

Further reading
