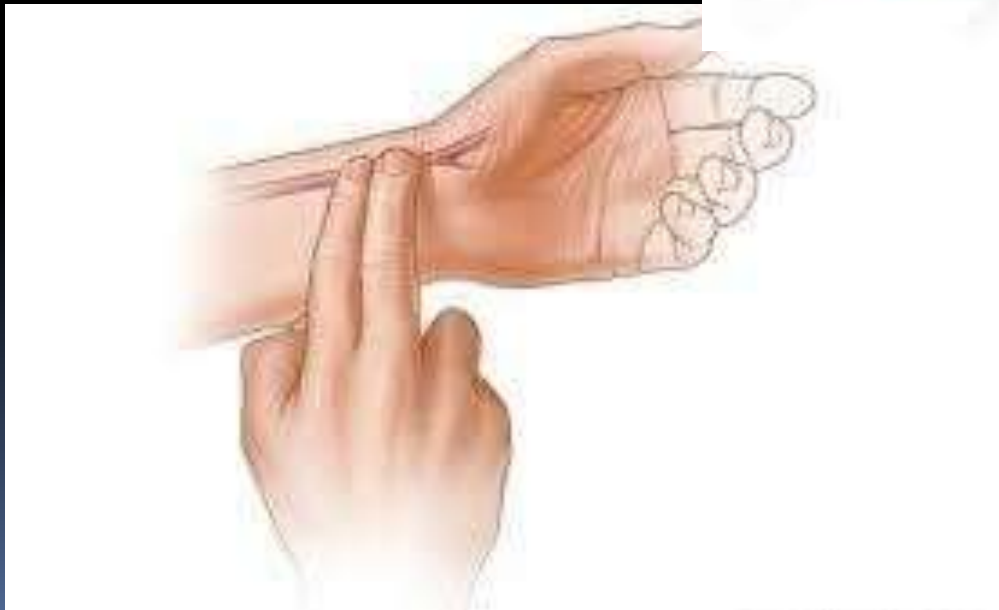
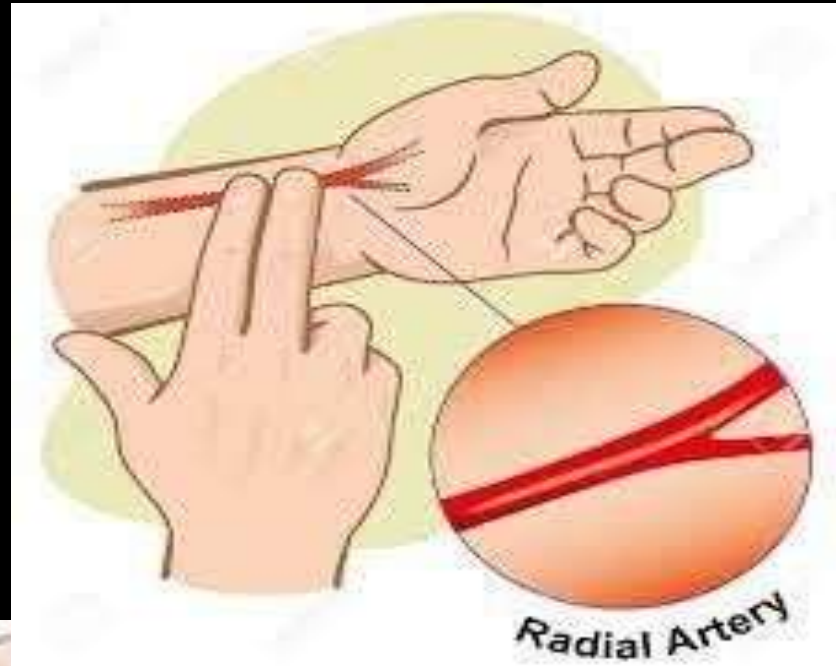




**Clinical examination of the  
arterial pulse of a patient and  
note the readings**

**1<sup>st</sup> Practical Lect.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Term**



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## **DEFINITION:**

**It is transient expansion of arterial wall as a result of pressure changes due to ejection of blood by left ventricle into the aorta with each cardiac cycle during systole.**

**Therefore, radial pulse or arterial pulse is defined as the rhythmic expansion of arterial wall due to the transmission of pressure wave along the walls of the arteries, produced during each systole of cardiac cycle.**

## **PRINCIPLE:**

**Pulse travels 10 times faster than the blood itself. It may be felt where approachable artery can be pressed against an underlying bone.**

## **SIGNIFICANCE:**

**Examination of arterial pulse provides important information regarding functioning of cardiovascular system, so it is one of the vital signs that must be checked with other general examination.**

## **PROCEDURE:**

**Arterial pulse is best felt with tips of three fingers, slightly compressing the vessel against the underlying bone surface.**

### **Commonly felt pulses:**

- 1. Radial pulse**
- 2. Brachial pulse**
- 3. Carotid pulse**
- 4. Femoral pulse**
- 5. Popliteal pulse**
- 6. Posterior tibial pulse**
- 7. Dorsalis Pedis pulse**

**For rate and rhythm, radial pulse is used.**

**For character and volume, carotid artery is used.**

**Radial pulse: It is most easy to detect and the most commonly felt pulse.**

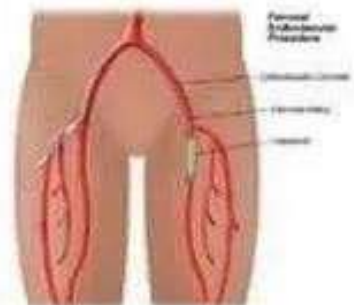
# Palpation of arterial pulses



Radial



Brachial



Femoral



Popliteal



Dorsalis pedis



Posterior tibial