Chapter 7 Swedish Massage Movements and Swedish Gymnastics

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Introduction

- Swedish massage
 - Systematic and scientific manipulation of soft tissues to establish and maintain health
 - Pehr Henrik Ling is father of Swedish massage
 - Johann Mezger introduced stroke names that used French terminology
 - Most widely used system in North America and includes Swedish gymnastics

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Elements in Application of Strokes

- Intention, touch, pressure, depth, direction, excursion, rhythm, continuity, speed, duration, and sequence
- Involves hand movements and body mechanics
- Benefits that cannot be measured include talk, touch, and time

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Intention

- Consciously sought goal or desired end
- All other elements are dependent on intention
- Our intention can alter the result of the massage session
- · Be willing to listen, feel, and respond
- Create a session that is client focused and experience led

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Touch

- Medium of massage
- Powerful tool, full of meaning and intention
- Beginning and ending touch very important



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Pressure and Depth

- Pressure is application of force applied to client's body
- Depth equals the distance traveled into the body's tissues, achieved through the application of pressure
- Hands, elbows, forearms, and tools are used to apply pressure
- Pressure may also be applied with the knees or feet

Pressure and Depth

- Use of pressure
 - Begin lightly and gradually increase to desired effect
 - Increase pressure by using your body weight
 - Even, consistent application of pressure builds trust
 - Never work past client's pain threshold
- Amount of pressure used depends on intent, condition of tissue, stroke being used, area of body, and client's response

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Pressure and Depth

- Too much pressure can lead to muscle guarding and will lessen the effectiveness of the work
- Never apply heavy pressure on delicate or thin-tissued areas
- Observe client's facial expressions, breathing patterns, or any other messages of discomfort for signs that too much pressure is being used

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Direction

- Down and forward (effleurage)
- Inward and up (pétrissage)
- Downward, back and forth (friction)
- Direction of pressure can make the difference when locating trigger points

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Excursion

- Distance traversed during the length of a stroke (typically effleurage); depends on:
 - Muscle length
 - Area of tissue restriction
 - Topographical region
- Body stance and foot placement are vital for proper excursion

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Speed

- Change of therapist's hand position over time or how rapidly or slowly a massage movement is being executed
- If movements are too fast or too slow, therapist may be unable to palpate and assess tissue properly
- Fast movements tend to stimulate and may alarm or fatigue the client
- Slow movements tend to be relaxing

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Rhythm and Continuity

- Rhythm—repetition or regularity of massage movements
- Continuity—uninterrupted flow and unbroken transition from one stroke to the next
- Relaxed hands, foot placement, distance from table, and table height important

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Duration

- Length of time spent on an area
- Too much massage on one area can cause problems
 - Bruising, soreness, inflammation
 - Use ice packs, variety of strokes to offset overwork
- Experience is the best teacher

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 Arrangement of massage strokes during a session

Sequence

- Combination for each massage will be based on the plan of care
- Typical sequence: effleurage, pétrissage, friction (vibration and tapotement), and effleurage
- A good sequence helps prevent repetitive injury to the therapist

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Routine

- Union of elements results in a routine
- Therapists learn and then modify routines
 - Seminars, continuing education
 - Evolution as a therapist
 - Individual client needs

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Classification of Swedish Massage Movements

- Categorized into groups according to their application
 - Effleurage, pétrissage, friction, tapotement, vibration
 - Hybrid strokes and variations
 - Reinterpretation and regrouping is fine
- Rely on your experienced instructors to demonstrate, model, and guide

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Effleurage

- Unbroken gliding stroke that follows contours of body
- Most commonly employed
- Applied with forearm or hands
- Used to introduce touch, assess, move blood and lymph, warm up tissues, flush out toxins, relieve pain, transition, and end

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Effleurage

- Push downward and away, lean and drag
- Maintain contact on return, relaxed hands
- Work extremities proximally first, then distally
- Reduce pressure over bony areas
- One hand or forearm can be used for raking, ironing, or circular movements

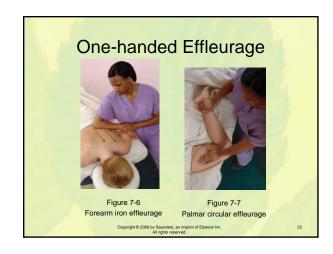
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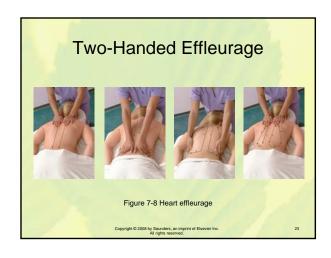
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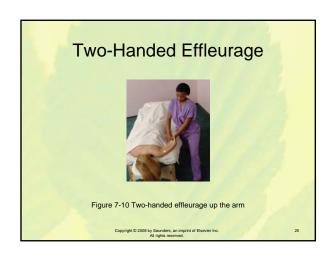


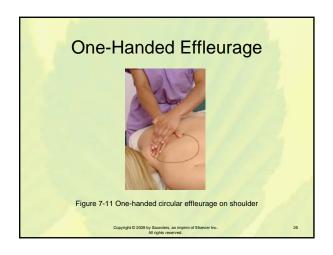




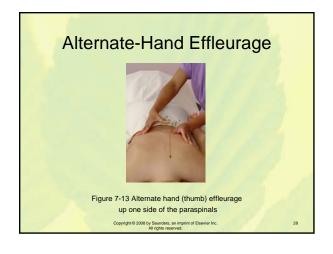


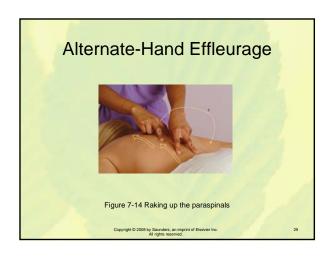




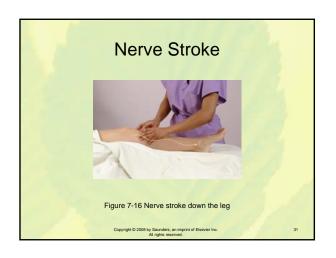












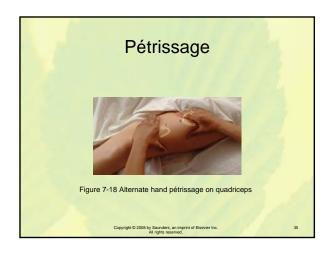


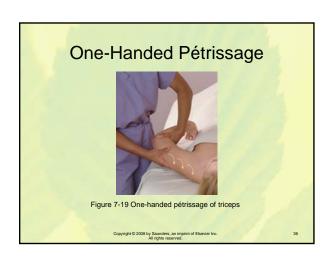
Pétrissage

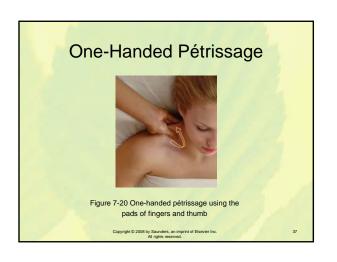
- · Work an area with several repetitions
- Use a rhythmic circular pattern in general
- Use a back-and-forth motion for clients with a lot of hair
- · Be careful not to cause pain
- Types are one-handed, two-handed, alternate hand, fulling, and skin rolling

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Pétrissage • Lifting skin and muscle with C-shaped hand, firmly knead, wring, or squeeze • As one hand relaxes and releases, repeat with the other



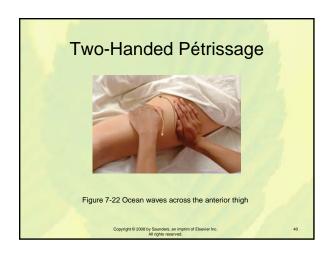


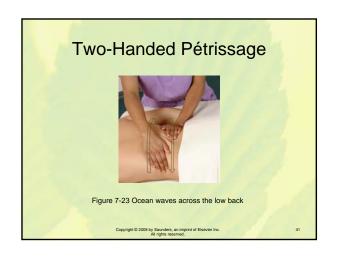


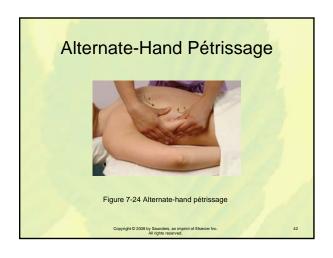
Two-Handed Pétrissage

- Technique same as for one-handed pétrissage, except both hands lift, compress, and release tissue at same time
- Two-handed variations include "ocean waves" and "praying hands"

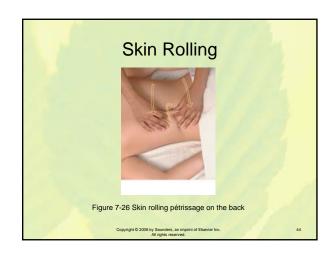
















Friction

- Rubbing one surface over another
- Often used to increase circulation in ligaments and tendons
- Applied with palms, thumbs, fingers, or elbow
- Choice of variations ranges from general to specific and depends on intent and size of area to be treated

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Friction

- General applications include superficial warming friction, rolling and wringing
- Superficial warming friction is also called heat rub
- Rolling friction best used on extremities
- Wringing friction is applied vigorously with entire palmar surface of both hands

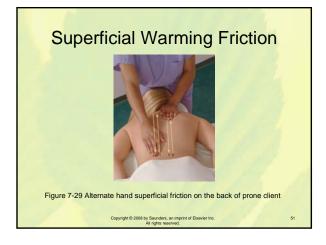
Friction

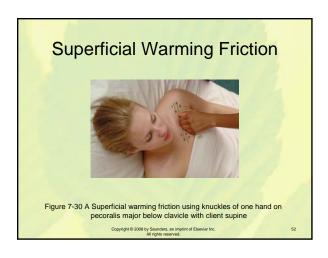
- Deep specific applications include crossfiber, chucking, and circular
- Cross-fiber or deep transverse friction popularized by Dr. James Cyriax
- Chucking is also called parallel friction
- Circular friction is very useful around joints and other bony areas
- Promotes proper scar formation

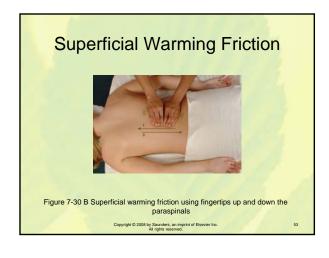
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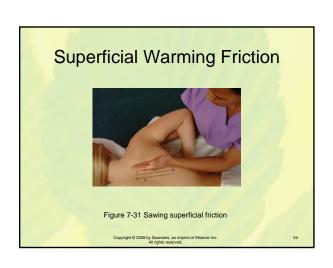
Friction

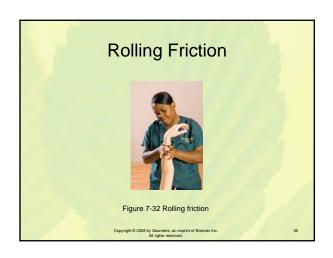
- Techniques for deep friction include:
 - Therapist slides hands back and forth over skin or to deeper layers
 - Press down or around an area or use circular or linear reciprocating movements
 - Little or no lubricant

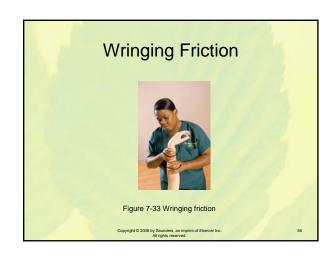




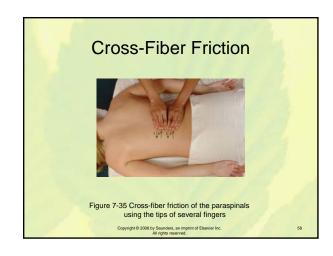


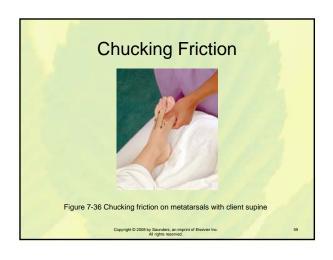


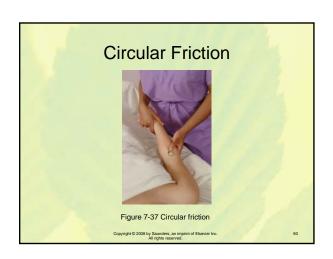


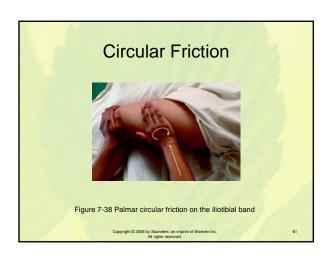












Tapotement

- Repetitive staccato striking movements
 - Hands move simultaneous or alternate
 - Delivered with various surfaces of the hand
 - Stimulating, often used to finish an area
- Do not use after exercise or over kidneys
- Variation used depends on location and desired effect
- Rhythmic; gradually increase speed and pressure, then decrease

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Tapotement

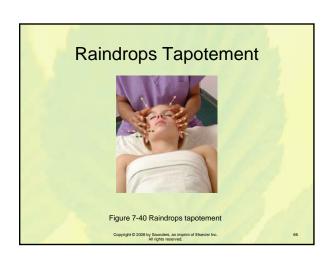
- Can be applied directly to skin or through a drape
- Keep wrists loose and fingers relaxed to achieve proper bounce-back
- Too much force can bruise a client
- Tapping includes "punctuated," "pulsing," and "raindrops"
- Pincement, also called "plucking," resembles pétrissage

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Tapotement

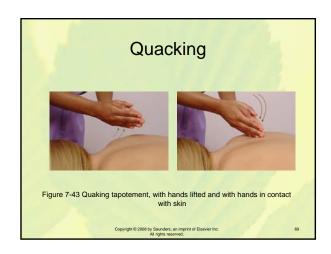
- Hacking (quacking)—can be used to relax or stimulate muscle
- Cupping—good choice for loosening mucus and phlegm
- Pounding (loose fist beating or rapping) used on large, muscular areas
- Clapping (slapping)—not recommended for survivors of abuse
- Diffused tapotement—for abdominal area

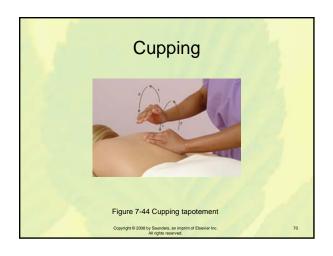


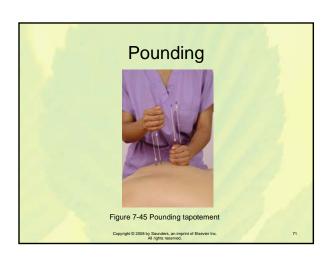


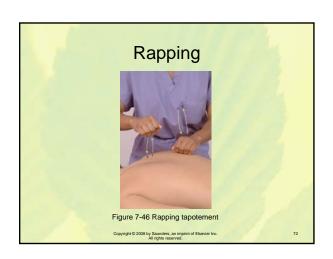


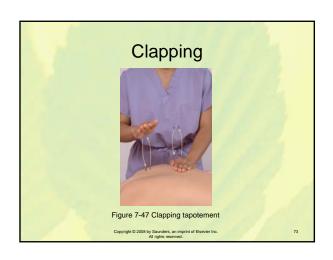


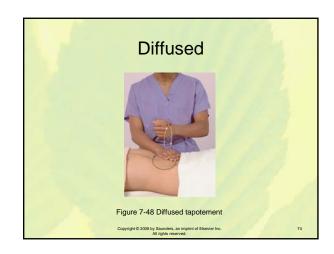












Vibration

- Rapid shaking, quivering, trembling, or rocking movements
 - Fine, coarse, rocking
 - Hands do not break contact with skin
 - Apply with fingertips, full hand, or appliance
 - Client should feel onset and removal of pressure
 - Physically demanding for therapist

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Vibration

- Use fingertips and hands for fine trembling
- Fine vibration may be stationary, gliding, or used with compression
- Coarse vibration involves grasping muscle, tissue, or limb and shaking or pulling vigorously for traction
- Coarse vibration is also called jostling
- For rocking vibration, move entire body in a natural rhythm

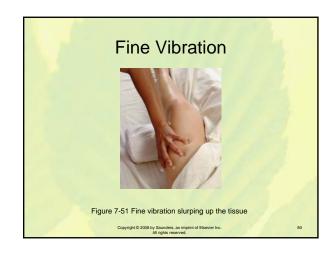
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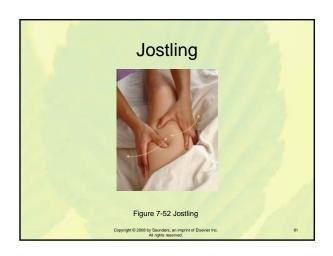
Vibration

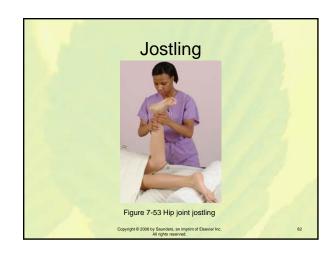
- Rocking can be very comforting; pitch and catch client's body rhythmically
- Mechanical vibration is applied through a towel for client's comfort
 - Limit use of handheld or electric vibrators to avoid nerve damage in therapist and numbing in client
 - Practice safety and comfort measures with cord



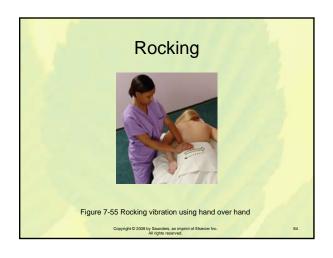


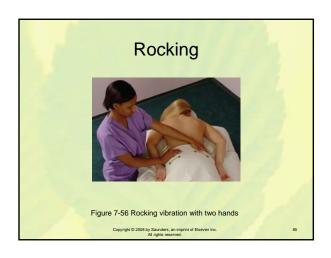


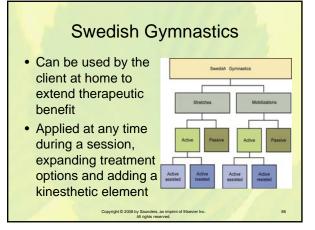












Swedish Gymnastics

- Joint mobilizations move a joint through normal range of motion
- Stretches involve a muscle (and synergist) drawn to fullest length
- Types are of stretches and joint mobilizations are
 - Passive movements
 - Active movements
 - Active-assisted movements
 - Active-resisted movements

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Swedish Gymnastics

- Passive movements applied by therapist while client remains passive
- Active movements performed by client after therapist describes or demonstrates the movement
- Active assisted performed by client with therapist assistance
- Active resisted performed by client with therapist resistance

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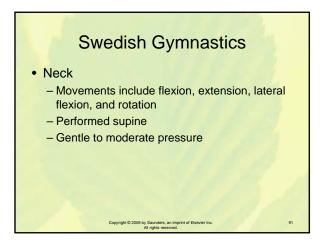
Swedish Gymnastics

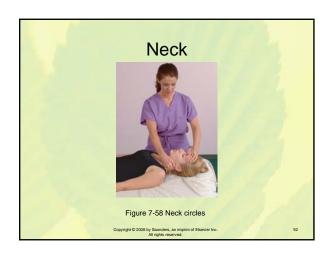
- Stretches and mobilizations performed on clients to increase flexibility and mobility, reduce pain, and restore function
- Avoid physical or surgical abnormalities, fast or bouncy movements
- Range of motion is movement around a joint or set of joints

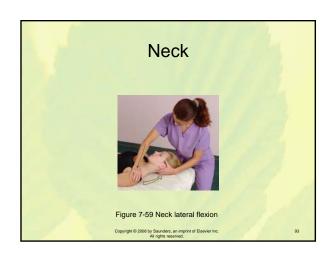
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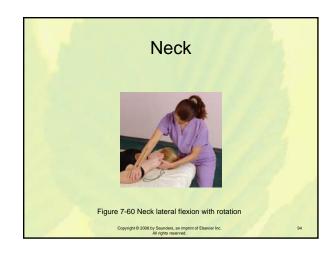
Swedish Gymnastics: Techniques

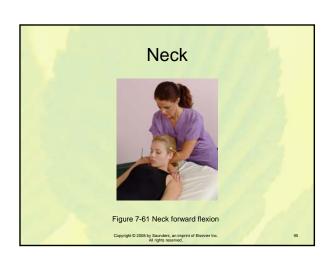
- Client in prone or supine position, depending on area to be treated
- Warm tissues and then perform three repetitions of hold and release
- Practice important; therapist must understand joint movements



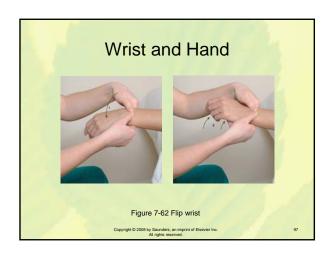


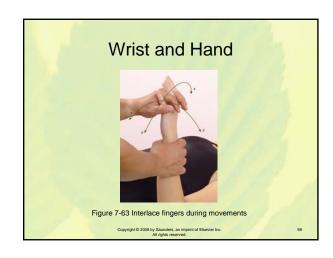


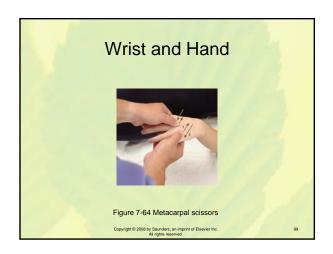


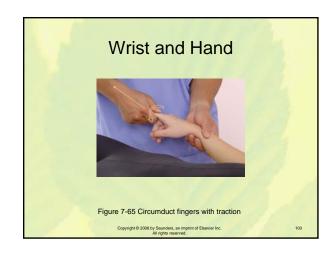


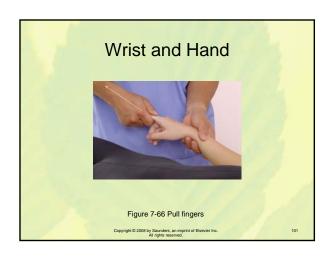


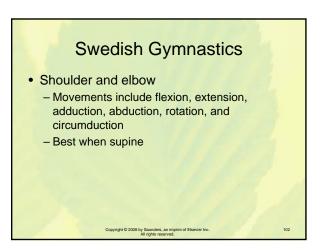


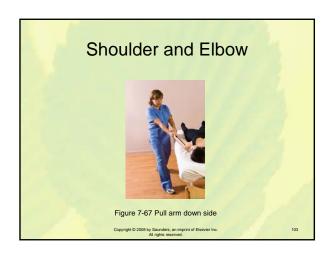


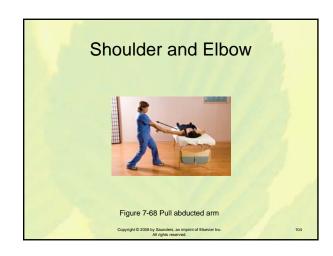


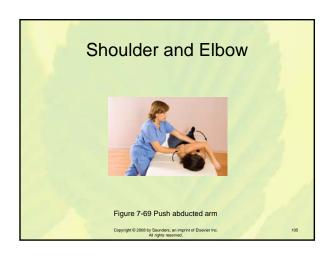


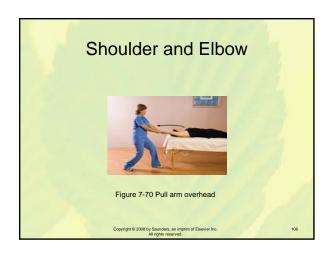




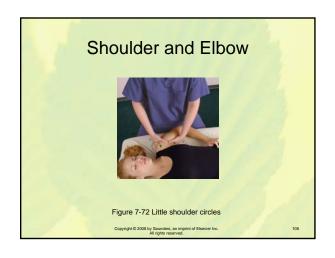


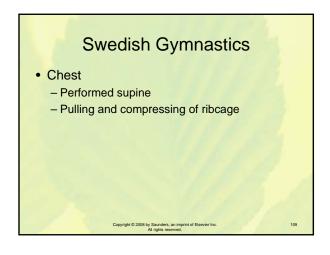


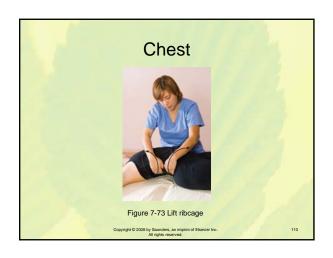


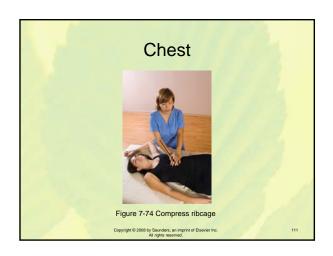


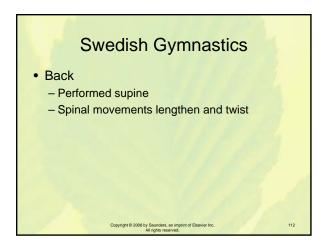














Swedish Gymnastics • Hip and knee - Hip movements include adduction, abduction, and circumduction - Performed prone or supine

