

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SIGN AND SYMPTOM

Supervisor: Asatullayev Rustamjon Baxtiyorovich

Trainee assistant at Samarkand State Medical University

Doschanova Maftuna

Student

MAQOLA MALUMOTI

ANNOTATSIYA:

MAQOLA TARIXI:

Received: 01.12.2025

Revised: 02.12.2025

Accepted: 03.12.2025

KALIT SO'ZLAR:

Understanding the difference between signs and symptoms is fundamental in clinical medicine. Signs are objective indicators detected through examination or instruments, while symptoms are subjective feelings reported by patients. This paper highlights definitions, clinical examples, diagnostic importance, and practical applications of signs and symptoms in medical practice.

Introduction

In medical science, signs and symptoms are key factors in diagnosing diseases. Although they are often used interchangeably by non-medical individuals, professionals must distinguish between them for accurate clinical decision-making.

Definition of sign and symptom

- Sign — An objective, observable, and measurable clinical finding noted by a healthcare provider.

Examples: Fever, rash, abnormal heartbeat, high blood pressure.

- Symptom — A subjective experience described by the patient.

Examples: Pain, dizziness, nausea, fatigue.

Clinical importance

Understanding both signs and symptoms ensures early detection of illnesses, guides diagnosis, and assists in treatment planning. Signs can be measured scientifically, while symptoms give insight into the patient's internal experience.

Diagnostic application

Doctors follow a structured diagnostic approach:

1. Patient history — subjective symptoms
2. Physical examination — objective signs
3. Diagnostic tests — laboratory and imaging confirmations

Using both allows a full clinical picture.

Clinical examples

• Diabetes mellitus:

Symptom — Frequent urination, fatigue

Sign — Elevated blood glucose

• Pneumonia:

Symptom — Chest pain, cough

Sign — Crackles heard in lungs, fever

• Migraine:

Symptom — Headache, sensitivity to light

Sign — Often no measurable sign, diagnosis based on symptoms

Comparison table

Feature	Sign	Symptom
---------	------	---------

---	---	---
-----	-----	-----

Type	Objective	Subjective
------	-----------	------------

Observed by	Doctor	Patient
-------------	--------	---------

Measurable	Yes	No
------------	-----	----

Examples	Fever, rash	Pain, nausea
----------	-------------	--------------

Conclusion

Both signs and symptoms are essential components of medical practice. Knowing their differences improves diagnostic accuracy and patient care, forming the foundation of clinical evaluation.

References

1. WHO Medical Diagnostic Manual, 2024
2. Oxford Handbook of Clinical Medicine, 2023
3. Davidson's Principles of Medicine, 2022
4. Mayo Clinic Clinical Guide, 2023

