

Taking a history 2



Klikněte na Nástroje
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Drug history

Here is an extract from a medical textbook.

It is essential to obtain full details of all the **drugs and medications** taken by the patient. Not infrequently patients forget to mention, or forget the name of, drugs they take. Some may be **over-the-counter remedies** unknown to the general practitioner. The significance of others, such as **herbal remedies** or **laxatives**, may not be appreciated by the patient.

It is necessary to determine the precise identity of the drug, the **dose** used, the **frequency of administration** and the patient's **compliance** or lack of it.

It is important to ask about known drug **allergies** or suspected **drug reactions** and to record the information on the front of the notes to be obvious to any doctor seeing the patient. *Failure to ask the question or to record the answer properly may be lethal.*

To find out about drug history, doctors ask:

Details of drugs and medications

- Are you taking any medication at the moment?
- Do you use any over-the-counter remedies or herbal or homeopathic medicines?
- Which tablet do you take?

Frequency of administration

- How many times a day?

Compliance

- Do you always remember to take it?

Side-effects and allergies

- Do you get any side effects?
- Do you know if you are allergic to any drug?

If the answer is Yes: What symptoms do you get after taking it?

Family history

Note the age, health or cause of death of parents, **siblings** (brothers and sisters), spouse (husband or wife), and children. To find out about family history, doctors ask:

- Do you have any brothers and sisters?
- Do you have any children?
- Are all your close relatives alive?
- Are your parents alive and well?
- Is anyone taking regular medication?
- How old was he when he died?
- Do you know the cause of death? / What did he die of?
- Does anyone in your family have a serious illness?

Social and personal history

Record the relevant information about **occupation**, **housing** and **personal habits** including **recreation**, physical exercise, alcohol and tobacco and, in the case of children, about school and family relationships. Typical questions in taking a social and personal history are:

- What kind of house do you live in?
- Do you live alone?
- Who shares your home with you?
- How old are your children?
- Are any of them at nursery or school?
- What's your occupation?
- Do you have any problems at work?
- Do you have any financial problems?
- Do you have any hobbies or interests?
- What about exercise?
- Do you smoke?
- How many a day?
- Have you tried giving up?
- What about alcohol?
- Wine, beer or spirits?
- Can you give up alcohol when you want?
- How much do you drink in a week?
- What's the most you would drink in a week?
- Are you aware of any difference in your alcohol consumption over the past five years?

48.1 Complete the sentences. Look at A, B and C opposite to help you.

- 1 Pharmacies sell a wide variety of remedies as well as dispensing prescriptions from physicians.
- 2 The is the quantity of the medication to be taken at any one time.
- 3 A drug is hypersensitivity to a particular drug.
- 4 A is a medication prepared from plants, especially a traditional remedy.
- 5 Your brothers and your sisters are your
- 6 is what you do for physical or mental stimulus outside work.
- 7 can take many forms: apartments, single rooms, houses, hostels.
- 8 The patient's to drug treatment, his willingness or ability to take the right dose at the right time and frequency, is essential.

48.2 Write the doctor's questions. Look at B opposite to help you.

- Doctor: (1) ?
Patient: My father died twenty years ago but my mother is in good health still. She's seventy now.
Doctor: (2) ?
Patient: I was still at school. He was forty-one.
Doctor: (3) ?
Patient: He had a heart attack.
Doctor: (4) ?
Patient: I've got a sister of forty-five and a brother who's thirty-six.
Doctor: (5) ?
Patient: No, I had an elder brother but he died in his forties. He was forty-two.
Doctor: (6) ?
Patient: Like my father, a heart attack.
Doctor: (7) ?
Patient: Not that I know of.
Doctor: (8) As far as you know ?
Patient: Apart from me, no.
Doctor: (9) ?
Patient: Yes, a boy and a girl. He's fourteen and she's twelve.

48.3 Study the social history of Mr Black. Write the questions the doctor asked to obtain the numbered information. Look at C opposite to help you.

Social history: Mr G. Black

Home – Lives in a detached house with a large garden⁽¹⁾.

Family – Four children: two girls aged 3 and 4, two boys aged 6 and 8. All are being taught at home by his wife⁽²⁾.

Occupation – Manager of a DIY warehouse. Stressful job involving dealing with frequent staff problems and meeting monthly sales targets. Large mortgage⁽³⁾.

Personal interests – Has little time for exercise or interests outside work⁽⁴⁾.

Habits – Presently smoking 20 per day⁽⁵⁾. Has tried nicotine patches without success⁽⁶⁾.

Average alcohol intake 3 units per day at weekends⁽⁷⁾. No problem with alcohol withdrawal⁽⁸⁾.

Over to you



Write a social history of a patient you know. Make a note of the questions you would ask to obtain the information.