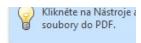
## Taking a history 2



## 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?

- Which tablet do you take?
- Do you use any over-the-counter remedies or herbal or homeopathic medicines?

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?

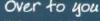
## Social and personal history

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
	6is what you do for physical or mental stimulus outside work.
	7can take many forms: apartments, single rooms, houses, hostels.
	2 The particular of the partic
	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.
400	
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 <sup>(2)</sup> .
	Occupation – Manager of a DIY warehouse. Stressful job involving dealing with frequent staff problems and meeting monthly sales targets. Large mortgage <sup>(3)</sup> .
	Personal interests – Has little time for exercise or interests outside work <sup>(4)</sup> .
	Habits – Presently smoking 20 per day <sup>(5)</sup> . Has tried nicotine patches without success <sup>(6)</sup> . Average alcohol intake 3 units per day at weekends <sup>(7)</sup> . No problem with alcohol withdrawal <sup>(8)</sup> .
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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.