

Med 341 Bedside teaching

Topic: History taking & examination of the Cardiac system

Objectives:

By the end of the sessions, the student should be able to:

1. Outline a systemic approach to cardiovascular assessment.
2. Discuss history questions that will help you focus your cardiovascular assessment.
3. Recognize abnormal cardiovascular assessment findings associated with inspection, auscultation, percussion, and palpation.

Key Outlines:

1. History is the key to diagnose most of CVS diseases
2. Clinical examination is helpful if focused
3. Differentiation between different systems by taking focused history and examination of CVS

Take home message:

A focused cardiovascular assessment is usually indicated after a comprehensive assessment indicates a potential cardiovascular problem. The focused cardiovascular assessment is also indicated when an interval or abbreviated assessment shows a change in status from your previous assessment or the report you received, when a new symptom emerges, or the patient develops any distress.

An advantage of the focused assessment is that it allows you to ask about symptoms and move quickly to conducting a focused physical exam. Based upon the results of your assessment, you may choose how often to perform interval assessments to monitor the patient's identified problem. Keep in mind that all assessments should consider patient's privacy and foster open, honest patient communication.

Recommended Books:

- **Nicholas Talley , Clinical examination**
- **Macleod's clinical examination**