

# History Taking in Pediatrics

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## Objectives / Outcomes

- To Have an Introduction to History Taking in Pediatrics
- To Highlight the Special Items in the Pediatric History as Compared to Adult

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## **Introductory information**

- Introduce yourself

- Establish rapport
- Name, age, gender (Patient ID)
- Person giving the history (parent, etc)
  - Reliability
- Origin

## Presenting Complaint

- Description of the presenting complaint, in chronological order.
- Including whether came in through Emergency Dept or

admitted from OPD.

## History of Presenting Complaint

- SOCRATES:
- Time course: seasonal or diurnal fluctuation.
- Exacerbating factors: foods.
- Referral by clinic vs. came in through casualty.
- Relevant negatives.

- If using unusual words, ask for clarification.

## History of Presenting Complaint

- **SOCRATES:**
- **Site:** where, local/ diffuse, "Show me where it is worst".
- **Onset:** rapid/ gradual, pattern, worse/ better, what did when symptom began.
- **Character:** vertigo/ lightheaded, pain: sharp/ dull/ stab/ burn/ cramp/ crushing.
- **Radiation** [usually just if pain].
- **Alleviating factors**, "What do you do after it comes on?"
- **Time course:** when last felt well, chronic: why came now.
- **Exacerbating factors**, "What are you doing when it comes on?"
- **Severity:** scale of 1-10.

- Associated symptoms.
  - Impact of symptoms on life: "Does it interrupt your life".
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## Past Medical, Surgical History

- Past illnesses, operations.
- Childhood illness, obs/gyn.
  - Tests and treatment prescribed for these.
  - Problems with the anesthetic in surgery.
- Previous Blood Products transfusion?



# Birth History

- Length of gestation.
- Age and parity of mother at delivery.
- Any maternal insults [alcohol, smoking] or illnesses during gestation.
- Where born: city, hospital.
- Birth weight, mode of delivery, difficulties in delivery.
- Resuscitation, intensive care requirement at birth.
- Cyanosis, pallor, jaundice, convulsions, birthmarks, malformations, feeding or respiratory difficulties.
- Apgar score at birth if known.
- How baby was fed in first few days.
- Whether child went home with mother

# Nutritional History

- Breast-fed vs. bottle-fed
  - When breast started, stopped: Why?
  - If formula: type, amount, pre-mixed vs concentrate [and dilution used].
- Vitamin/Iron supplements.
- Age when other diet was started.
- Appetite and growth.
- Current diet: Quality of Diet?

# Immunization History



- See *the Most Recent National Vaccine Card*
- Get dates of each.
- Any complication post previous vaccines?

## Developmental History

- Gross motor:
  - e.g. sitting and walking

- Fine motor:
  - e.g. Pincer grasp and scribble
- Vision, speech, hearing:
  - e.g. say “Mama” “Baba” and two words sentence
- Social:
  - e.g. smiling, playing with others
- See *Developmental Milestones Reference*.

## Education History

- Start of school attendance.
- School level and grades
- Relationship with Friends
- Special needs requirements.

- Impact of symptoms: absent school days.

## Family History

- The current complaint in parents/ siblings: health, age of onset, ?cause of death.
- Parents/siblings: age, health, where living.
- Height and weight of parents.
- Hereditary & Consanguinity: do a family tree.



# Social History

- Age, occupation of parents.
- Race and migration of parents [if relevant].
- Any others at daycare/ school with same complaint.
- Travel: where, how lived when there, immunization/ prophylactic status when went.
- Does the child live at home, and with whom [include siblings].
- Smokers in the home.

- Pets in the home.
  - "Is there some things that worry you about the symptoms your child is having?"
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## Drug History

- Prescriptions currently on: dose, when started, what for.
- Compliance.
- OTCs.
- Alternative / Herbal medications.

# Allergy History

- Allergies, and reaction of each:
  - Eczema, asthma, hay fever, hives.
  - Drugs, foods, dyes.

# Systems Review

- Screening: if any abnormality => Explore the details

## History tips

- Ask if the temperature was actually measured, and if so, what it was.
- Some parents may exaggerate or mislead you so ask specific questions
- Avoid leading questions!
- Show appreciation and empathy with parents anxiety and worry
- Be aware of the sensitivity of some issues in the family life
- Take note of the parents behavior

## Questions/Comments

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