

# History Taking in Pediatrics

**Dr Hani Temsah**

Consultant Pediatric Intensivist,  
PICU, KSUMC

Associate Professor of Pediatrics, KSU

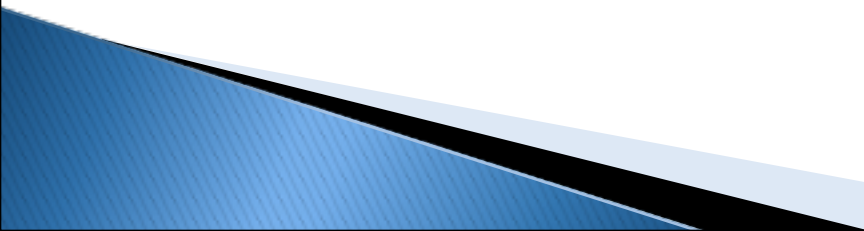
# Objectives / Outcomes

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

# 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.
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# 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".

# 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?

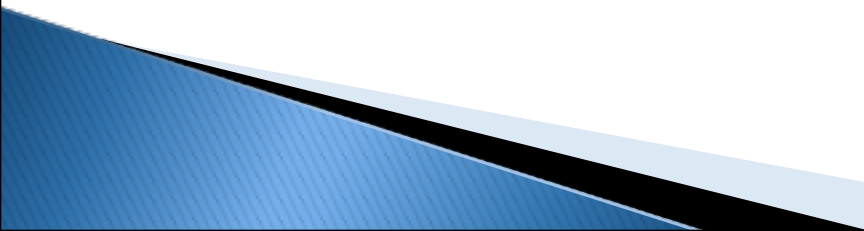
# Immunization History

- ▶ 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.
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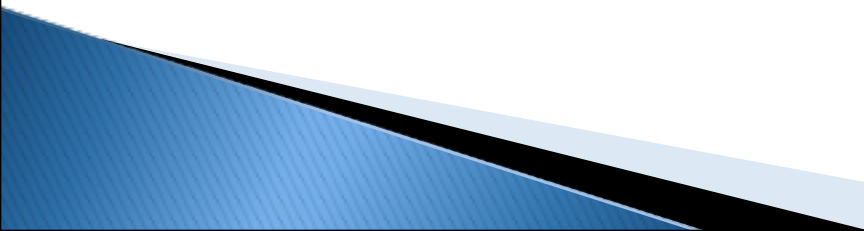
# Family History

- ▶ 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?"

# Drug History

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

- ▶ [mtemsah@ksu.edu.sa](mailto:mtemsah@ksu.edu.sa)

