Chapter 16
History Taking

Learning Objectives

- Describe structure, purpose of medical history
- List components of comprehensive history for adult patients
- Describe how to obtain comprehensive health history

Learning Objectives (Cont’d)

- List unique components of comprehensive history for pediatric patients
Purpose of Medical History

- Gather data
- Establish reliability of patient as historian
- Monitor patient progress
- Establish rapport with patient
- Patient education

Obtaining Comprehensive Health History

- Communication skills essential
- 3 main goals
  - Establish rapport
  - Obtain data
  - Educate and motivate patient
- Differential diagnosis

Obtaining Comprehensive Health History (Cont’d)

- Beginning the interview
  - Introduction
  - Prioritize needs
  - Inform patient of your role
  - Use open-ended questions
Comprehensive History Components

- Identifying data
  - Date, time
  - Age
  - Gender
  - Race
  - Occupation
  - Place of birth

Comprehensive History Components (Cont'd)

- Source of referral
  - Home, physician's office
  - Pertinent information from referral source
- Source of history
  - Record how, from whom received information

Comprehensive History Components (Cont'd)

- Reliability
- Chief complaint
  - Recorded in exact patient words
Comprehensive History Components (Cont'd)

- History of present illness
  - Location
  - Quality
  - Severity
  - Timing
  - Setting
  - Modifying factors
  - Associated symptoms

Comprehensive History Components (Cont'd)

- History of present illness
  - OPQRST
    - Onset
    - Provocation/Palliation
    - Quality
    - Region/Radiation
    - Severity
    - Timing

Comprehensive History Components (Cont'd)

- Medical history
  - Childhood illnesses
  - Adult illnesses
  - Psychiatric illnesses
  - Accidents, injuries
  - Surgeries
  - Hospitalizations
Comprehensive History Components (Cont'd)

- Current health status
  - Current medications
  - Allergies
  - Tobacco use
  - Alcohol, drugs, other related substances
  - Diet
  - Screening tests
  - Immunizations

Comprehensive History Components (Cont'd)

- Current health status
  - Sleep patterns
  - Exercise, leisure activities
  - Environmental hazards
  - Safety measures

Comprehensive History Components (Cont'd)

- Can also use SAMPLE
  - Signs, symptoms
  - Allergies
  - Medicine
  - Past medical history
  - Last oral intake, output
  - Events prior
Comprehensive History Components (Cont'd)

- **Family history**
  - Alcoholism
  - Anemia
  - Arthritis
  - Cancer
  - Diabetes
  - Drug addiction
  - Epilepsy
  - Headaches

- **Heart disease**
- **High blood pressure** (hypertension)
- **Kidney disease**
- **Mental illness**
- **Stroke**
- **Tuberculosis**

Comprehensive History Components (Cont'd)

- **Psychosocial history**
  - Home situation, significant other
  - Daily life
  - Important experiences
  - Religious beliefs
  - Patient's outlook

Comprehensive History Components (Cont'd)

- **Review of systems**
  - General
  - Diet
  - Skin, hair, nails
  - Head
  - Eyes
  - Ears
  - Nose
  - Throat & mouth
  - Neck
Comprehensive History Components (Cont'd)

- Review of systems
  - Respiratory
  - Cardiac
  - Gastrintestinal
  - Genitourinary
  - Male genitalia
  - Female genitalia

Comprehensive History Components (Cont'd)

- Review of systems
  - Peripheral vascular system
  - Musculoskeletal
  - Neurologic
  - Hematologic
  - Endocrine
  - Psychiatric

Comprehensive History Components (Cont'd)

- Unique components of a pediatric history
  - Caregivers must answer additional questions
    - Birth history
    - Prenatal history
    - Delivery problems
    - Neonatal problems
Comprehensive History Components (Cont’d)

- Comprehensive vs. targeted history
  - Comprehensive at hospital
  - Targeted in field

Comprehensive History Components (Cont’d)

- Confidentiality
  - Privileged information
  - Can violate privacy rules with intent to harm self, others
  - Adolescents
    - Most states allow treatment without consent of parent
    - Encourage open dialogue with family

Chapter Summary

- Medical interview designed to gather information about patient’s past, present medical conditions, establish rapport with patient
- Technique of active listening, knowledge when to use open-ended vs. direct questions allows accurate history from your patients in efficient manner
Chapter Summary (Cont’d)

- Understand components of comprehensive medical history including chief complaint, history of present illness, past medical history, current health status, review of systems
- Recognize special challenges to obtaining medical history requires changing standard approach to medical interview to accommodate issues facing the patient

Questions?