

History Taking



Pediatrics

Clinical Examination

History Taking

Personal History

- 1- **Name:** It should include initial name and family name
- 2- **Sex:** Certain diseases are more common in one sex than the other, e.g:
 - In males:** G6PD deficiency, hemophilia, aortic regurgitation and nephritic syndrome are more common
 - In females:** mitral stenosis and rheumatic chorea are more common
- 3- **Age:** **Age groups:**
 - Neonatal period: First 4 weeks after birth.
 - Infancy: 1-12 months. (up to 2 years by some authors)
 - Toddlerhood: 2-3 years.
 - Early childhood (preschool age): 3-6 years.
 - Late Childhood (School age): 6-12 years.
 - Adolescence: 12-20 years.
- 4- **Residence:** Urban or rural
- 5- **Occupation of parents:** a clue to educational level and socioeconomic status.
- 6- **Date of admission** to hospital.

Complaint

The cause of seeking medical advice:

- In the parents' or child's own words.
- No leading questions.
- No medical terminology: e.g. one can say "difficulty of breathing" but not "dyspnea".
- Should be arranged chronologically: the first complaint to occur is mentioned first then the next one and so on.
- Recorded in numerical fashion.
- Duration of each complaint.

Present History

- A. Analyze each complaint:
 - a. Onset: Sudden, acute or gradual.

- b. Course: Progressive, regressive, stationary, intermittent or remittent.
 - c. Duration.
 - d. Factors relieving and factors aggravating.
 - e. Response to therapy if any.
- B. Other symptoms of the same system affected
- C. Symptoms of other systems that may be involved.
- D. Ask about general condition: e.g: Fever, appetite, weight loss
- E. Investigations done and treatment received.

Past History

I. Obstetric (Perinatal) History:

- **Antenatal:** Maternal risks during pregnancy as infection, maternal illness, radiation exposure or drug intake.
- **Natal:**
 - Nature of labor: Vaginally or Cesarean section.
 - Place of delivery: Home, public hospital or private hospital
 - Personnel attending delivery: Midwife, nurse.
 - First cry: Delayed or immediate.
 - Birth weight
- **Neonatal:** Prematurity, twins, jaundice, incubation.

II. Developmental History :

- Milestones of development.
- Teeth eruption.

III. Dietetic History :

- **Breast or artificially fed:** if artificially fed:
 - Why is it given?
 - Type of milk?
 - Amount
 - Dilution
 - Frequency
 - Feeding adequacy



- **Weaning:**
 - Time of weaning
 - Sudden or gradual
 - Type of diet given
 - Any adverse reactions to food
- **Vitamin supplements**



IV. Vaccination History:

- Type and time of vaccination
- Reaction or complications of vaccinations
- Any vaccinations other than the compulsory vaccines

V. History of Past Illness:

- Similar condition.
- Previous hospital admission.
- Etiologic or precipitating factors for the present complaint.
- Infectious diseases or parasitic infestations.
- Surgical or interventional procedures
- Accidents or trauma.

Family History

- Consanguinity.
- Number of siblings.
- Similar conditions, related conditions, and other familial diseases.
- Health of family members.
- Family pedigree.