



Past medical and family history

COMMUNICATION SKILLS FOR THE MEDICAL PRACTITIONER

Past medical history (PMH)

- ▶ is the information about the patient's health before the presenting complaint
- ▶ *List eight components of a PMH*

Past medical history

includes:

1. Past illnesses
2. Childhood illnesses (mumps, measles, chicken pox, etc.)
3. Immunisation
4. Surgical procedures
5. Accidents and injuries
6. Pregnancies (for women)
7. Allergies (food, medication, hay fever, etc.)
8. Medication (traditional and alternative)

not to miss important information.

Fill in the headings in the notes in SB on page 33 (copies)

Listen to 3.1 and complete the notes about different components(p.33 copies)

Questions



1. What communication elements does taking PMH include?
2. Listen to 3.2 , number the components of the PMH as you hear them.(SB, ex.3a, p.34)
3. Does the doctor ask about PMH components in the same order as in notes on p.33? Why?

Family history



is obtaining a history of the patient's family members (generally 3 generations)

Reasons to obtain FH

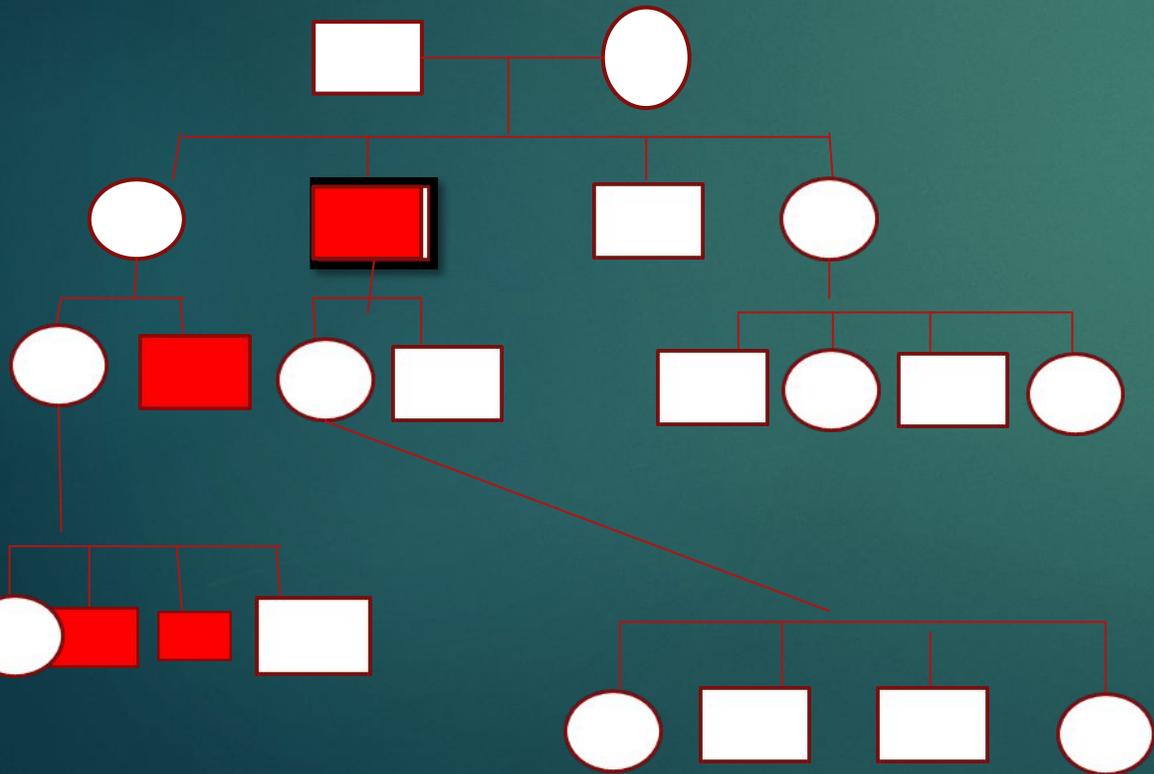
1. The patient may be suffering from
 - a genetically determined disease (hypertension, diabetes, coronary artery disease, rheumatoid arthritis, colon/breast cancer) or
 - a single gene disorder (familial hypercholesterolemia, sickle cell anaemia, cystic fibrosis)
2. The patient's concerns about his/her presenting complaint may be connected to
the experience of other family members

Is there a family history of ... ?

Pedigree diagram

Pedigree diagram = Family tree

- ▶ It might be useful to obtain the family history by making a family tree with the patient



Patient note

- ▶ is a record of each encounter with the patient's GP or a specialist
- ▶ is a legal document that must be signed and dated each time it is updated
- ▶ has a particular layout for easy access
- ▶ it should clearly demonstrate the history and physical examination results, clinical reasoning, conveying essential information to other consultants and healthcare providers
- ▶ can include diagrams to indicate information about the findings of physical examination
- ▶ includes only relevant points **(SB p. 39)**

Abbreviations (ex.17a, p.38)

HTN	m	b	yo	Neuro	cig	CXR	PMH	MRI	Abd
r	GI	h/o	l	f	FH	w	ETOH	ICU	c/o

Abbreviations

- ▶ HTN – hypertension
- ▶ M - male
- ▶ b - black
- ▶ yo - years old
- ▶ Neuro – neurologic
- ▶ cig - cigaretts
- ▶ CXR – chest X-ray
- ▶ PMH – past medical history
- ▶ MRI - magnetic resonance imaging
- ▶
- ▶ Abd - abdomen

r - right

GI - gastrointestinal

h/o – history of

l - left

f - female

FH - family history

w - white

ETOH - alcohol

ICU - intensive
care unit

c/o

Home task

- ▶ Read script 3.2, p. 140 and analyze:
 - Dr. Tran's questioning technique for the PMH
 - Ms Martin's responses and their impact on the GP