

Headache History



OPENING THE CONSULTATION		
1	Introduces themselves	
2	Confirms patient details	
3	Establishes presenting complaint using open questioning	
HISTORY OF PRESENTING COMPLAINT		
4	Site of pain	
5	Onset of pain	
6	Character of pain	
7	Radiation of pain	
8	Associated symptoms	
9	Time course	
10	Exacerbating and relieving factors	
11	Severity of pain	
12	Asks if patient has experienced this symptom previously	
13	Elicits patient's ideas, concerns and expectations	
RED FLAG SYMPTOMS		
14	Early morning headache	
15	Headache associated with change in posture / coughing	
16	Vomiting	
17	Recent head injury (<i>within 90 days</i>)	
18	Focal neurological deficit	
19	Visual disturbance	
20	Photophobia	
21	Neck Stiffness	
22	Jaw claudication	
PAST MEDICAL HISTORY		
23	Headache / Migraine	
24	Intracranial bleeding	
25	Malignancy	
26	Other medical conditions	
27	Past surgical history	

DRUG HISTORY	
28	Prescribed medications
29	Anticoagulants / Anti-platelets
30	Over the counter medication
31	ALLERGIES
FAMILY HISTORY	
32	Migraines (<i>first degree relatives</i>)
SOCIAL HISTORY	
33	Smoking history / Alcohol intake / Recreational drug use
34	Home situation / Level of functional independence
35	Occupation
SYSTEMIC ENQUIRY	
36	Screens for symptoms in other body systems
CLOSING THE CONSULTATION	
37	Thanks patient
38	Summarises salient points of the history
KEY COMMUNICATION SKILLS	
39	Active listening
40	Summarising
41	Signposting

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