



OSCE Checklist: Cardiovascular History Taking

Opening the consultation	
1	Wash your hands and don PPE if appropriate
2	Introduce yourself to the patient including your name and role
3	Confirm the patient's name and date of birth
4	Explain that you'd like to take a history from the patient
5	Gain consent to proceed with taking a history
Presenting complaint	
6	Use open questioning to explore the patient's presenting complaint
History of presenting complaint	
7	Site: ask where the symptom is
8	Onset: clarify when the symptom first started and if it came on suddenly or gradually
9	Character: ask the patient to describe how the symptom feels
10	Radiation: ask if the symptom moves anywhere else
11	Associated symptoms: ask if there are any other associated symptoms
12	Time course: ask how the symptom has changed over time
13	Exacerbating or relieving factors: ask if anything makes the symptom worse or better
14	Severity: ask how severe the symptom is on a scale of 0-10
15	Screen for other key cardiovascular symptoms such as chest pain, dyspnoea, palpitations, syncope and oedema
16	Explore the patient's ideas, concerns and expectations
17	Summarise the patient's presenting complaint
Systemic enquiry	
18	Screen for relevant symptoms in other body systems
Past medical history	
19	Screen for conditions that increase the risk of cardiovascular disease such as hypertension, hyperlipidaemia and diabetes
20	Ask about pre-existing cardiovascular disease
21	Ask about other medical diagnoses and previous surgical history
22	Ask if the patient has any allergies and if so, clarify what kind of reaction they had to the substance
Drug history	
23	Ask if the patient is currently taking any prescribed medications or over-the-counter remedies

Family history	
24	Ask if there is any family history of cardiovascular disease and clarify at what age the cardiovascular disease developed
Social history	
25	Explore the patient's general social context (accommodation, who the patient lives with, how the patient manages with activities of daily living, care needs)
26	Take a smoking history
27	Take an alcohol history
28	Ask about recreational drug use
29	Ask about problematic gambling
30	Ask about diet and exercise
31	Ask about the patient's occupation
32	Ask if the patient drives
Closing the consultation	
33	Summarise the salient points of the history back to the patient and ask if they feel that you've missed anything
34	Thank the patient for their time
35	Dispose of PPE appropriately and wash your hands
Key communication skills	
36	Active listening
37	Summarising
38	Signposting

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