



OSCE Checklist | Elbow Pain 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 about the location of the elbow pain
8	Onset: clarify when the elbow pain first started and if it the onset was sudden or gradual
9	Character: ask about the specific characteristics of the elbow pain
10	Radiation: ask if the elbow pain moves anywhere else
11	Associated symptoms: ask if there are any other associated symptoms (e.g. swelling, redness, weakness)
12	Time course: ask how the elbow pain has changed over time
13	Exacerbating or relieving factors: ask if anything makes the elbow pain worse or better
14	Severity: ask how severe the elbow pain is on a scale of 0-10
15	Explore the patient's ideas, concerns and expectations
16	Summarise the patient's presenting complaint
Systemic enquiry	
17	Screen for relevant symptoms in other body systems
Past medical and surgical history	
18	Ask if the patient has any medical conditions including previous elbow problems
19	Ask if the patient has undergone any relevant surgical procedures
20	Ask if the patient has any allergies and if so, clarify what kind of reaction they had to the substance
Drug history	
21	Ask if the patient is currently taking any prescribed medications or over-the-counter remedies
Family history	
22	Ask the patient if there is any family history of joint problems, inflammatory arthritis or malignancy (e.g. sarcoma).

Social history		
23	Explore the patient's general social context and impact of symptoms	
24	Take a smoking history	
25	Take an alcohol history	
26	Ask about recreational drug use	
27	Gather details about the patient's occupation	
28	Ask about any hobbies which may be relevant to their elbow pain	
Closing the consultation		
29	Summarise the salient points of the history back to the patient and ask if they feel anything has been missed	
30	Thank the patient for their time	
31	Dispose of PPE appropriately and wash your hands	
Key communication skills		
32	Active listening	
33	Summarising	
34	Signposting	

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