



Patient Care



Obtain social, medical, surgical and medication history

- interviewing the patient is important because it can provide clues to help clinicians form an accurate diagnosis
- Diseases , prior surgical procedures, and medications can all impact the appearance of the EKG tracing.

Social History

- Smoker? - How many packs/day? If they quit, how long ago?
- Alcohol consumption? -How often and how much? What kind?
- Stress? -Major life changes? How do they handle stress?
- Exercise? -How often and what type?
- Eating habits? - high fat, sodium, caffeine?
- Work environment? -chemical exposure?
- Family support? Living environment
- Marital status? Children?

Medical History

- Hospitalizations and major illnesses
- Hx of heart attack, stroke, aneurysm, murmurs, endocarditis, pulmonary embolism, DVT
- Chronic conditions: heart failure, HTN, hyperlipidemia, hyperglycemia, DM, COPD, cardiac arrhythmias, obesity
- Allergies: food, drug, environmental, latex
- Current symptoms: ask OPQRST

Medical History cont'd

Ask if they ever experienced these symptoms:

- Chest pain
- Shortness of breath
- Swelling of the legs/feet
- Palpitations or racing heart
- Fainting
- Fatigue or weakness
- Pallor
- Coughing up blood

Surgical History

- Surgeries
 - When
 - Where it was performed
 - Complications
- Heart surgeries
 - Valve replacement
 - Cardiac catheterization
 - Coronary artery bypass graft (CABG)
 - Aneurysm repair
 - Childhood cardiac surgeries
 - Pacemaker implant
 - Heart transplant

Medication History

- List patient's current meds
 - Dosage and time of day it is taken
- Med allergies/adverse response
- Over-the-counter meds, herbal supplements and vitamins
- Include asking about pharmacological birth control or erectile dysfunction meds