

NEUROLOGICAL HISTORY

HEADACHE

CHARACTER
DURATION
SEVERITY
FREQUENCY
RADIATION
AGGRAVATING AND RELIEVING FACTORS

ASSOCIATED SYMPTOMS:

Bilateral sensation of tightness without anything extra
= TENSION HEADACHE
Flashing lights, unilaterality, photophobia
= CLASSICAL MIGRAINE
Tears, nose snot, flushed forehead
= CLUSTER HEADACHE
Stiff neck, posterior headache
= CERVICAL SPONDYLOSIS
Morning headache, all over head, + nausea/vomiting
= INCREASED INTRACRANIAL PRESSURE
Stiff neck, photophobia, fever
= MENINGITIS
persistent, unilateral, temporal, in an elderly person
= TEMPORAL ARTERITIS
upper face, cheeks, forehead
= ACUTE SINUSITIS
sudden onset, local but spreading, with neck stiffness:
= SUBARACHNOID HAEMORRHAGE

FAINTS, FITS

Consciousness impaired? → complex seizure
Not impaired → simple seizure

Tonic/clonic?

Absence (staring, fiddling)?

VERTIGO

Sensation of constant movement, cant walk, nauseous, etc
FIND OUT WHAT YOUR PATIENT MEANS BY "DIZZYNESS"

VISUAL DISTURBANCES

Blurry?

Double vision?

Light intolerance?

Visual loss in one or both eyes?

CHRONOLOGY: on/off? Progressive? After hot shower?

DISTURBED SENSATION

Treat as pain, i.e severity, character, duration etc...

TWITCH AND TREMOR

When relaxed? = resting tremor

When moving deliberately = intention tremor = cerebellum sign

When anxious = physiological tremor (ask re. thyrotoxicosis)

Involuntary jerky movements? = chorea

PAST HISTORY of...

Meningitis?

Encephalitis?

Previous operations?

Veneral disease?

Risk factors for cardiovascular disease,

smoking + diabetes + high cholesterol + atrial fib. Etc

SOCIAL HISTORY

Smoking?

Alcohol?

Drugs?

Toxins eg. dyes, pesticides

Heavy metals

MEDICATIONS

Is there a history of MADNESS in the family?
