

INTRODUCTION TO PAEDIATRICS AND HISTORY TAKING IN NEONATES

DR. MWENDWA

GROUND RULES

- **Keep time**
- **Silence**
- **Phones off**
- **Participate**
- **Read ahead ALWAYS**
- **Avoid missing classes**

Definition of Paediatrics

- Is the branch of medicine that deals with the medical care of **infants, children, and adolescents** and the treatment of their diseases.
- The age limit ranges from **birth up to 18** (in some places until completion of secondary education or until age **21** in the United States).
- A medical practitioner who specializes in this area is known as a **pediatrician**.

HISTORY TAKING- Objectives

1. To learn the systematic approach to history taking in neonates.

Preliminaries

- Warm greetings and introductions

Outline of neonatal history taking

I. Patient details:

- **Age, gender, race**, and other important identifying information about patient – **hospital no.**
- Indicate the **informant**, and their reliability, and if an **interpreter** was used.

II. Chief Complaint/Presenting illness

- Brief statement of primary problem that caused family to seek medical attention.
- List these in **chronological order**, with the oldest complaint first e.g cough 2 weeks, fever 1 week, diarrhoea 2 days, vomiting 1 day.

History of presenting illness

- Detailed chronological **account of the illness**, with full description of symptoms.
- Important positives and negatives** which help in formulating the differential diagnosis.
- Any **previous treatment**
- **Review of systems:** Systems which are not covered in HPI.

Review of systems

- Skin - rashes, bruising and bleeding and pigmentation changes
- **ENT** - oral thrush
- **Cardiac** : cyanosis and dyspnea
- **Respiratory**: apnea, difficulty in breathing
- **GI**: stool color and character, diarrhea, constipation, vomiting, hematemesis,
- **GU** – passing of urine

Pregnancy and Birth History

- **Maternal health during pregnancy:** bleeding, trauma, hypertension, fevers, infectious illnesses, medications, drugs, alcohol, smoking, rupture of membranes.
- **Gestational age** at delivery in weeks

Not in months

Cont..

- **Labor and delivery** - length of labor, fetal distress, type of delivery (SVD, cesarean section), use of forceps, anesthesia, breech delivery
- Rupture of membranes:
 - premature rupture of membranes, prolonged ROM, Prelabour ROM

CONT..

- ANC Profile:
 - blood group
 - Hemoglobin
 - Urinalysis
 - VDRL
 - ELISA for HIV
 - Hep BSAg

Post natal history

- Apgar scores, birth weight
- breathing problems, use of oxygen
- need for resuscitation /intensive care
- Initiation of breastfeeding: timing after birth
- onset of jaundice
- birth injuries, feeding problems
- length of stay in hospital

Feeding History

- Breast or cup fed, types of formula, frequency and amount, reasons for any changes in formula
- Problems created by specific types
- Who feeds the child
- Quantities fed/eaten

Immunization History

- Be specific: NOT JUST UPTO DATE
- The birth vaccines:
 - BCG (Bacillus calmete guerin)
 - OPV zero (oral polio virus zero)

Family History

- **Illnesses** - cardiac disease, hypertension, stroke, diabetes, malignancy, abnormal bleeding, allergy and asthma, epilepsy
- Mental retardation
- congenital anomalies
- chromosomal defects
- growth problems
- consanguinity, ethnic background

Social history

- Living situation and conditions - daycare, safety issues, water and sanitation issues
- Composition of family- siblings, gender, ages, schooling, if dead or alive
- Age and Occupation of parents

Summary

- Of all above

Questions

- ??????

SUMMARY

- A **stepwise approach** to history taking is key to obtaining all the information required.
- Your **conduct** lays a foundation for **successful physical examination**