

Surgery – General History Taking Principles

The general history taking principles apply in Surgery also. Systematic Review: remember 4-5 questions from Talley & O Connor for exam situation.

The general pattern goes like this: **Record:** patient's name, age, sex, ethnic group, occupation, marital status, address & date of examination.

PC, HPC, REMAINING SYMPTOMS IN SYSTEM INVOLVED, PMHx (Risk factors), DRUG Hx, SYSTEMATIC REVIEW, FMHx, SHx.

History of Pain (Browse 3rd Ed, 7-11)

A simple mnemonic you can use is: SOCRATES = Site, Onset, Character, Radiation, Associated Systems, Time intensity relationship (i.e.: progression of pain), Exacerbating/Relieving factors, Severity.

History of Lump (Browse 3rd Ed, 11-12)

WWWCDO (e.g.: just remember: WWW.CompactDiscOnline.com)

W = **when** did you first notice the lump?

W = **what** made you notice the lump? (i.e.: how did you notice the lump)

W = **what** symptoms are associated with the lump (i.e.: pain). If pain → SOCRATES!

C = has the lump **changed** since you noticed it? (i.e.: size, shape etc)

D = does the lump ever **disappear**? (i.e.: during movement/exercise)

O = have you noticed/had **other** lumps anywhere else?

History of Ulcer (Browse 3rd Ed, 12-13)

WWWCO (e.g.: just remember: WWW.CompactOnline.com)

W = **when** did you first notice the ulcer?

W = **what** made you notice the ulcer? (i.e.: discharge, bleeding, smell)

W = **what** symptoms are associated with the ulcer? (i.e.: pain) If pain → SOCRATES!

C = has the ulcer **changed** since you noticed it? (i.e.: size, shape, edge, depth, discharge)

O = have you had / noticed any **other** ulcers anywhere else? (i.e.: similar/dissimilar)