

SOCIAL HISTORY

COMMUNICATION SKILLS
FOR
THE MEDICAL PRACTITIONER

BACKGROUND

Questions related to the social history

- allow to identify the factors contributing to the patient's illness
- help you to evaluate the patient's sources of support,
reaction to illness,
coping mechanisms,
strengths and fears.

TATE (2004)

- *Make it a rule to know more about the patients when they leave than when they come in.*
- *Look at the pictures and link them to the quotation (SB p.42)*

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Doctors should look beyond the appearance and avoid stereotypes

They are required to take notes of their patients' appearance and read the clues

General appearance could give clues or mask clues to patient's well-being

(do ex. 1a, p.42; ex.2, p.42; ex.5a,p.43; 6b, p.43)

SOCIAL HISTORY

INCLUDES *family life*

occupation

environment (the conditions in which they live)

financial situation

education

lifestyle (tobacco, alcohol, drug consumption

general fitness

rest and relaxation

sleep patters

hobbies

sexual practices

Why to ask ?

- Cause stress, tension, depression, irritable bowel syndrome
- Could give an indication to the patient's access bto medical care

ASKING ABOUT LIFESTYLE

- EX. 9A,B, P. 44:

READ THE DIALOGUE ON PAGE 141

FIND QUESTIONS RELATED TO SOCIAL HISTORY

FIND CAUSES OF FUTURE CONCERNS

ROLEPLAY THE DIALOGUE

SUMMARISING THE ENCOUNTER

- Doctors summarise at the end of a specific line of enquiry to confirm understanding before moving on.
- It is a key skill in information gathering and structuring the interview
- It provides intentional feedback to the patient

Silverman et al.(2005)

Language for summarising

