



MSSBU OSCE PRACTICE CASE 3_02_05

Station Vignette

You are a third-year medical student at the ED

The registrar has asked you to take a history from Jacob, a 19-year-old male who has presented with an episode of shortness of breath.

TASK

You have a total of **7 minutes** to take a full history.

This includes:

- History of presenting complaint
- Constitutional history
- Past medical history
- Medications history
- Social history
- Family history
- Focussed systems review

At the end of the allotted time, you will have **1 minute** to answer the examiner's questions.

You do **NOT** need to complete a physical examination.

PATIENT INSTRUCTIONS

Presenting Complaint: Shortness of breath

Hx of Presenting Complaint:

- The shortness of breath began around 10am today. You were out with your friends playing tennis and you started to become wheezy and short of breath.
- You took 3 puffs of Ventolin (no spacer) which improved slightly. You went for lunch after tennis and your symptoms continued to worsen. You took another 3 puffs of Ventolin at 11am with no improvement. This was the worst you can remember your ever being.
- Your friend drove you to the ED around 12 pm.
- Exacerbating factors – exercising and relieving factors – Ventolin
- Severity – worst it has ever been, haven't had an attack for the last 5 yrs
- No cough present
- No chest pain or palpitations
- Still have chest tightness and feel short of breath at the ED

Constitutional Symptoms:

- Weight: 3kg lost last 5 weeks (intentional – new fitness regime)
- Nil fever, chills or night sweats
- Diet: avoid dairy
- Appetite: nil changes
- Sleep: 7hrs a day

Past Medical and Surgical Hx:

- **Medical Conditions:**
 - Asthma (onset 6 years old)
 - Visited hospital at 8, 11 and 15 for asthma attacks (treated with steroids and nebuliser)
 - You don't have hay fever or eczema
 - Don't use a spacer as they are bulky
- **Surgeries:** Nil
- **Medications:**
 - Ventolin as needed
- **Allergies:** Nuts

Social Hx:

- Lives with 2 other flatmates
- Full-time university student
- Non-smoker
- Alcohol: 2-3 drinks on the weekend
- Recreational drugs: none

- Exercise: Play tennis twice a week
- Travel: Nil recent

Family Hx:

- Your 2 brothers have asthma
- No other relevant family history

EXAMINER QUESTIONS

1. Please provide a **treatment plan** for Jacob.

MARKING CRITERIA – Case 3_02_05

Item	Criteria	Mark
Introduction	<input type="checkbox"/> Hand hygiene <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate introduction <input type="checkbox"/> Explains personal role and gains consent	/ 2
Presenting complaint	<input type="checkbox"/> Leads with open question <input type="checkbox"/> Follows with another open question	/ 2
History of presenting complaint	<input type="checkbox"/> Onset of SOB <input type="checkbox"/> Time course of SOB <input type="checkbox"/> Relieving and exacerbating factors <input type="checkbox"/> Severity of SOB <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Associated sx (cough, chest tightness, syncope)	/8
Constitutional history	<input type="checkbox"/> 0.5 points for each of the following: diet, appetite, weight loss, sleep, energy, exercise <input type="checkbox"/> 0.5 points for each of the following systemic symptoms: fevers, chills, night sweats, rash <input type="checkbox"/> Travel <input type="checkbox"/> Recent trauma <input type="checkbox"/> Recent illness	/5
Past medical history	<input type="checkbox"/> Past medical/surgical history <input type="checkbox"/> Screen for relevant conditions/risk factors (e.g. Eczema, Hayfever)	/2
Medications history	<input type="checkbox"/> Asks over the counter, prescription, and herbal remedies <input type="checkbox"/> Ventolin – asks about amount of puffs, breaths in-between and frequency per week <input type="checkbox"/> Allergies <input type="checkbox"/> Immunisations	/4
Social history	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupation <input type="checkbox"/> Living situation <input type="checkbox"/> Asks all of smoking, alcohol and recreational drugs	/3
Family history	<input type="checkbox"/> Asks relevant family history	/1
Systems review	<input type="checkbox"/> CVS: chest pain, palpitations, pre-syncope and syncope, calf pain and swelling <input type="checkbox"/> GIT: nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain <input type="checkbox"/> Neuro: confusion, headache, dizziness, fits	/3
Questions	<input type="checkbox"/> Treatment plan – ABCDE, SABA (nebulised or spacer), Corticosteroids, Oxygen, Monitor vitals	/5
Communication skills	<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate questioning style <input type="checkbox"/> Actively listens to patient <input type="checkbox"/> Systematic approach to history taking <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate conclusion and summary	/4
Global score	Overall impression of candidate based on warmth, clarity and competence: 1 = fail 2 = borderline 3 = pass/expected 4 = good 5 = excellent	/5
	Total	/45