MSSBU OSCE PRACTICE
CASE 3_02_02

Station Vignette

You are a third-year medical student at the ED.

The registrar has asked you to take a history from Thomas Bing, a 24-year-old man who has presented with her friend.

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: Took some paracetamol tablets for a headache

Hx of Presenting Compliant:

- About 6 hrs ago you ingested 30 paracetamol tablets, all at once with ½ a bottle of vodka. If asked about the tablet's strength, it is 500 mg and immediate release, you did not take any other medications with it.
- If asked why, say that you have been feeling depressed for the last 2 weeks, as you lost your close friend to suicide. You had been thinking about attempting for the last couple of days due to the insurmountable guilt you were feeling.
- This was your first attempt, and you haven't self-harmed before. Mention you are annoyed with your housemate because they found you. You cannot say for sure that you will not do this again. You haven't had any symptoms and you don't feel sick.

Associated Symptoms:

- Nil nausea and vomiting
- Nil confusion
- Nil visual or auditory hallucinations

Constitutional Symptoms:

- Weight: nil changes
- Fever, chills, night sweats: nil
- Diet: vegan
- Appetite: decreased today
- Sleep: nil affected, 7hrs a day

Past Medical and Surgical Hx:

- **Medical Conditions:** Nil
- **Surgeries:** Nil
- **Medications:**
  - COCP
  - OTC: paracetamol for headaches
- **Allergies:** Nil food or drug

Social Hx:

- Lives with flat mate
- Full-time university student
- Non-smoker
- Alcohol**:** 2 bottles of vodka every weekend but not during the week
- Recreational drugs: weed once a fortnight

Family Hx:

- Mother has **depression**
- No other relevant family history

EXAMINER QUESTIONS

1. Please provide **two (2)** appropriate investigations.

2. Describe how you would **manage** this patient.

MARKING CRITERIA – Case 3_02_02

Item	Criteria	Mark
Introduction	▢ Hand hygiene ▢ Appropriate introduction ▢ Explains personal role and gains consent	/ 2
Presenting complaint	▢ Leads with open question ▢ Follows with another open question	/ 2
History of presenting complaint	▢ Asks when and where the patient took the medication ▢ Asks what medication the patient took and how ▢ Clarifies how much of the medication the patient took ▢ Asks if the patient co-ingested any other substances at the time ▢ Asks what the patient did after taking the medication ▢ Asks how the patient got to hospital ▢ Clarifies ongoing suicidal intent (what was the purpose of the overdose) ▢ Asks if the patient has ever self-harmed or attempted suicide in the past ▢ Asks if the patient has any psychiatric diagnoses or if they have every been admitted to a psychiatric hospital	/8
Constitutional history	▢ 0.5 points for each of the following: diet, appetite, weight loss, sleep, energy, exercise ▢ 0.5 points for each of the following systemic symptoms: fevers, chills, night sweats, rash ▢ Travel ▢ Recent trauma ▢ Recent illness	/5
Past medical history	▢ Past medical/surgical history ▢ Screen for relevant conditions/risk factors (e.g., psychiatric conditions)	/2
Medications history	▢ Asks over the counter, prescription, and herbal remedies ▢ Allergies ▢ Immunisations	/4
Social history	▢ Occupation ▢ Living situation ▢ Asks all of smoking, alcohol and recreational drugs	/3
Family history	▢ Asks relevant family history	/1
Systems review	▢ Cardioresp: Palpitations, Pre-syncope and Syncope ▢ Neuro: Confusion, Headache, Hallucinations ▢ GIT: Nausea, Vomiting, Abdominal pain	/3
Questions	▢ **Investigations** – 2 of: ECG, FBC, Serum Paracetamol Level, UEC ▢ **Management** – 0.5 for each of: Discuss with senior doctor, NAC infusion, IV fluids, organise visit with mental health team	/5
Communication skills	▢ Appropriate questioning style ▢ Actively listens to patient ▢ Systematic approach to history taking ▢ Appropriate conclusion and summary	/4
Global score	Overall impression of candidate based on warmth, clarity and competence:	/5

	1 = fail 2 = borderline 3 = pass/expected 4 = good 5 = excellent	
	Total	/44