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It is about the patient... Culture and All

Intended Learning Outcomes

- Validate & demonstrate respect for differing values, cultures, & beliefs
- Develop Communication, interaction, & interviewing skills
- Identify questions about health practices & beliefs
- Elicit a cultural, social, and medical history
- Recognize the impact of bias, class, and power

Functions of the Medical Interview

Why talk to the patient?

- Gather data
- Build a relationship
- Educate the patient
- Formulate plans & make decisions
- As therapy

Functions of the Social History

Why care about the social history?

- Helps define cause or mechanism of disease
- Identifies sources of support
- Identifies barriers to wellness
- Provides a window into approaches that are likely to succeed

Functions of the Social History

Why care about the social history? (cont'd)

- Suggests pt's likely reactions
- Elicits coping mechanisms
- Identifies patient strengths
- Explores patient concerns

It's a valuable tool!

LS Bickley et al. A Guide to Physical Examination and History Taking. 1999

The Social History Reveals...

- Environment
- Social Support
- Social Stressors
- Literacy & Language
- Health Beliefs & Expectations

Carrillo JE et al. Annals of Internal Medicine 130(10); 831.

A Useful Opener:

I'd like to get to know more about you. Could you tell me about yourself?

Environment:

- Where are you from?
 - What was life like there?
 - Why did you decide to come here?
 - What was medical care like there compared with here?

Social Support:

- Do you have anyone to support or help you?
 - Do you have family? Friends?
 - Are you married or partnered? Do you have children?
 - Do you feel safe in your current relationship?
- Are you involved in any religious community or social group?
- Is there anyone else you would like to have consulted or involved in your care?

Social Stressors:

- What is causing you the most stress in your life?
- Do you work?
 - What kind of work have you done in your life?
- Do you ever have difficulty affording food, medications or medical expenses?
 - Have you ever missed pills or not filled prescriptions because of their cost?
 - How difficult is it for you to come to the clinic?

LS Bickley et al. A Guide to Physical Examination and History Taking. 1999

Literacy and Language:

- What language do you speak at home?
- How far did you get in school?
 - Do you have trouble reading or understanding your medication bottles or other patient information?
 - In English or your native tongue

LS Bickley et al. A Guide to Physical Examination and History Taking. 1999

The Social History...Going Deeper

Health Beliefs:

- What do <u>you</u> think caused your symptoms?
 - Why do you think they started when they did?
 - What do you think the sickness does to you?
 - What are the major problems the sickness has caused?
 - What have you done for the illness until now?

(adapted from Kleinman et al., 1978)

The Social History...Going Deeper

Health Beliefs (cnt'd):

- What are you hoping for?
- What are you afraid of?
 - What do you fear most about your sickness?
 - What do you fear most about the treatment?

The Social History...Going Deeper

Ritual:

- What do you think we should do?
- Is there anything else that could be done?
- Is there anything about your illness or medical care that is important for me to know that we have not discussed?

The Typical Social History

CC: Hemoptysis

HPI: Pt is a 48 YO female with no sig PMH who presents with Hemoptysis x 1.

SH: Single, Former IVDA quit 2002. Former smoker, quit 2007. Former MJ, quit 2001. No h/o EtOH.

A Better Social History

Patient is a cook at a local soup kitchen who lives alone. She has family in Texas, but is estranged from them. She has a high school education and is trained as a beautician, but has not been steadily employed as such since she suffered an assault in 2000. To cope with the pain of her injuries and nightmares resulting from the assault, she started using heroin IV and smoking crack. This distanced her from her family and led her to lose her last job as a beautician. She was homeless, living on the streets from 2000-2002, working as a prostitute. In 2002, she became a born again Christian and stopped using drugs and cleaned up her life. She has a 30 y h/o smoking 1 pack q2-3d, and quit smoking 1 year ago. She feels closest to her friends in the Church and wants her pastor (Pastor Williams) consulted in the event that she cannot speak for herself. She has difficulty affording her medications on her current income. She lives 3 hours away.

E.G. Social Support Questions for Pregnant Women

- How do you feel about the pregnancy?
- Have you ever felt nervous (los nervios) about the pregnancy? Who helps you feel better?
- Was the pregnancy planned? If not, how do you feel about it?
- How does your spouse/partner feel about the pregnancy? Is he more machismo now?
- Do you have any relatives or friends that will be able to help you during the pregnancy and with your care at home after you deliver (la cuarentena)?

Martinez-Schallmoser L et al. Social Support in Mexican American Childbearing Women. JOGNN 2/05

Social Support Questions for Pregnant Women

- Have you selected your compadres yet? Do you talk or visit with them?
- Do you get any help from your spouse/partner while you are pregnant? For example, housework, care for other children, grocery shopping, and so on?
- Will you get any help from your spouse/partner when you get home after your delivery? For example, housework, care for other children, grocery shopping, and so forth. If you receive any help with housework, care for other children, grocery shopping, and so on, how satisfied are you with the help?
- What kind of community or religious support do you have where you live?

Martinez-Schallmoser L et al. Social Support in Mexican American Childbearing Women. JOGNN 2/05

Ms. Graupera

Image of El Salvadorian woman and child removed.

Important Clues in the SHx

Santa Cruz on the Guatemalan border



Ø PD-GOV

Based on CIA's World Factbook, http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:El_salvador_map.png

El Salvador - 2006

Clean water	68-94%
Polio vaccinated	98%
Measles vaccinated	97%
MDs/10,000 (2002)	12
GDP spent on	7%
Health	
Life Expectancy M/F	67/75
Literacy	79%

http://www.paho.org/English/SHA/prflels.htm

http://www.who.int/countries/slv/en/

El Salvador

- Causes of death (1996)
 - 35% Accidents, trauma, suicide
 - 22% CAD
 - 15% Cancer
 - 11% Pneumonia
- El Salvadorans in the US: 1.5-2 million

http://www.paho.org/English/SHA/prflels.htm

http://www.who.int/countries/slv/en/

http://migration.ucdavis.edu/MN/more.php?id=2386 0 2 0

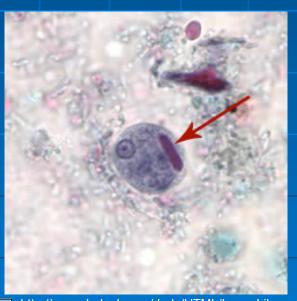
Important Clues in the SHx

- Consider showing pictures to students of the Civil War in El Salvador
- Consider adding content that demonstrates the stress of Civil War Conflicts

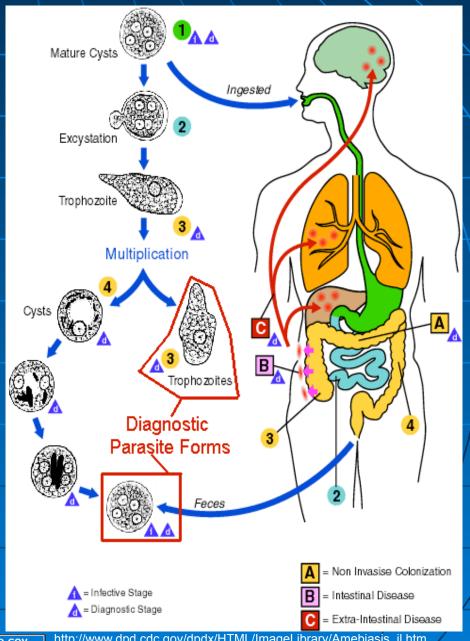
Important clues in the SHx

- ? Illegal immigrant
- Recent travel
- Belief in 'nervios'
- Belief in diet as etiology of illness
- Recent illness in sister
- Poorly educated
- Modest means
- Little social support
- Zenze of deales of acculturation

Entamoeba Histolytica

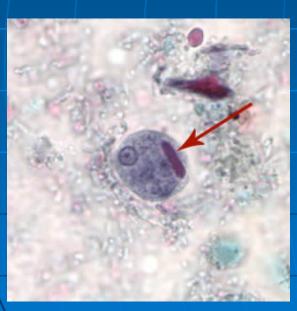


http://www.dpd.cdc.gov/dpdx/HTML/ImageLibrary/Amebiasis il.htm @ PD-GOV



http://www.dpd.cdc.gov/dpdx/HTML/ImageLibrary/Amebiasis_il.htm

Liver Abscess





http://phil.cdc.gov/phil/details.asp

Ø PD-GOV

http://www.dpd.cdc.gov/dpdx/HTML/ImageLibrary/Amebiasis_il.htm

Could the diagnosis have been made without the Social History?

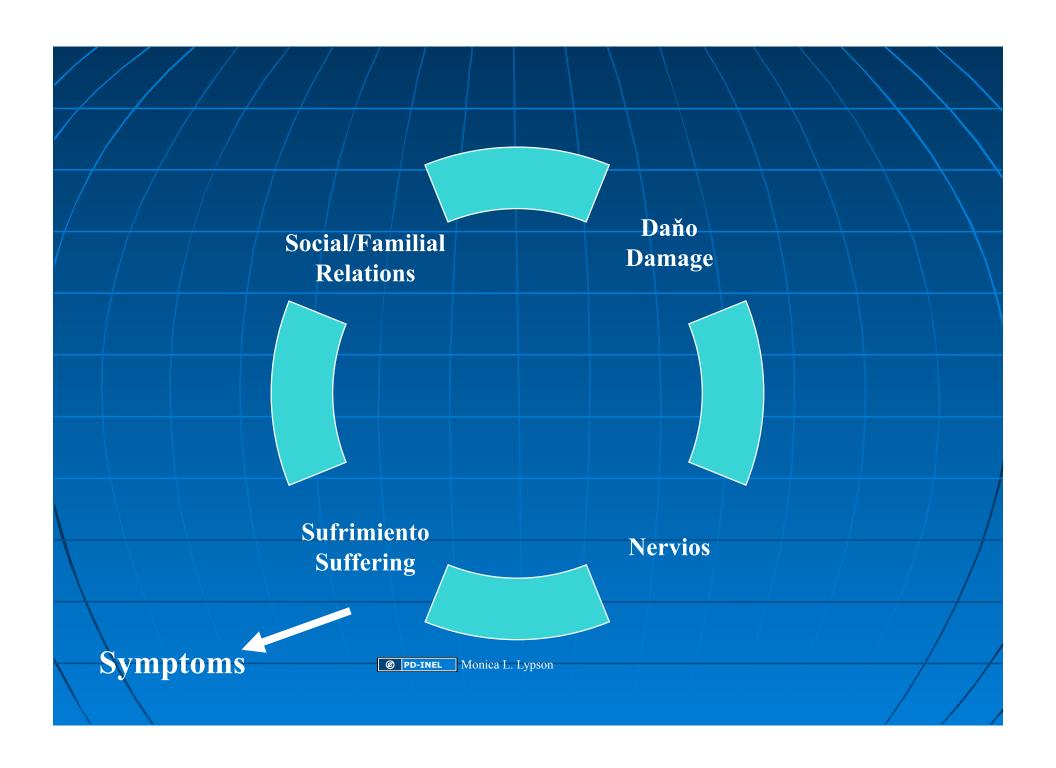
Would you be surprised if the abdominal pain persisted after treatment?

"Nervios"

- Nervios is a cultural phenomenon
 - Books
 - "Nervios, Nervios, de interés para todos"
 - Author: K.G. Umanski
 - Movies
 - "Mujeres al borde de un ataque de nervios"
 - 1989 nominated for Best Foreign Film

"Nervios"

- Crosses the mind-body chasm
- Myriad of physical complaints and psychological states
- Links the notion of inner suffering with familial/social context



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