

Neurological History

- Progression of symptoms & signs is vital clue:
 - Gradual deterioration \approx tumour
 - Intermittent exacerbations \approx MS
 - Rapid onset \approx stroke

- Ask right or left handed

PC

- Headache:
 - Diff to usual headaches
 - Unilat or bilat
 - Aura
 - Meningism
 - Worse on waking \approx \uparrow ICP
 - \downarrow conscious level
- weakness:
 - speed of onset
 - sensory loss
 - sphincter disturbance
 - loss of balance
 - assoc root pain
- visual disturbance:
 - blurring/visual loss
 - diplopia
 - photophobia
 - pain?
 - Speed of onset
- Special senses
- Dizziness:
 - Vertigo
 - Hearing loss/tinnitus
 - LOC
- Speech disturbance:
 - Onset
 - Type
- Dysphagia
- Fits/faints/funny turns:
 - Duration
 - Mode of onset
 - Preceding aura
 - LOC
 - Tongue biting
 - Incontinence
 - Residual weakness/confusion
 - FH
- Skin sensation:
 - Distribution
 - Assoc weakness
- Tremor:
 - Rapid or slow
 - Present at rest

- Worse on deliberate movements
- Taking **B** agoinsts
- Any **thyroid problems**
- FH

Cognitive State

- AMT:
 - Age
 - DOB
 - Time
 - Year
 - Tell pt name of address to remember “42 West Street”
 - Hospital name?
 - Recognise two people
 - Date of second world war
 - Name of present monarch
 - Count backwards 20-1

PMH

- ?meningitis/encephalitis
- head/spine trauma
- seizures
- **vascular RFs:**
 - AF
 - HT
 - Hyperlipidaemia
 - DM
 - Smoke
- Chance of pregnancy – risk of **eclampsia**

FH

- Any neuro disease

DH

- Anticonvulsant/antipsychotic/antidepressant meds
- Psychotropic drugs eg ecstasy
- Meds with neuro side effects eg **isoniazid**