

## Family History

**Jane Crone, NP** The next part of the medical interview, that you will want to ask a patient about, is their family history. As we've talked about, this includes three generations. It will depend on the age of your patient as to which way those generations will go. In the case that your patient is between somewhere in their late adolescent teens, twenties, thirties, forties, you will first of all always find out about the patient's history, which you've done with the past medical history, and their siblings - that is considered one generation. And then you will either go down and ask about their children if they have them, or you will go above their age bracket and you will go into their parents. If there are no children, you want to ask about the patient and their siblings, their parents and their grandparents. Now, obviously that if you're talking to someone in their eighties, they may be able to be able to tell you about themselves, their parents, their children or their grandchildren, so you have to adjust depending on the patient's age, to determine which collection of three generations you want to talk to the patient about.

**Miss Smith** I'm going to talk with you now about your family history.

And sometimes we want to talk about several generations in this, usually three of them, because we want to find out about generations that may genetically run in your family or illnesses that run in your family that you're concerned about. So I always like to kind of start out and say, what illnesses are there in your family that you know about or you've been told stories about that you are concerned about?

**Miss Smith** Um, high blood pressure runs in my family. And sometimes I'm a little concerned that I will get that.

**Jane Crone** Ok, alright we'll talk a little bit more about that and we're going to find out, you know, who had that high blood pressure. Now, you... erm, what is your age please?

**Miss Smith** 29.

**Jane Crone** 29, do you have siblings?'

**Miss Smith** Yes.

**Jane Crone** Ok, and when I... This is one thing that I want to make sure is clear when this interview is.. this part of the interview is done is that the information I'm seeking here primarily is genetically so I'm very interested to know, 'are your siblings your biological siblings? Are your parents your biological parents?'

**Miss Smith** Yes.

**Jane Crone** Ok. So, what I want to know is, with your siblings, tell me how old your siblings are. You're 29.

**Miss Smith** I have 2 brothers. One is 34 and one is 32.

**Jane Crone** Ok. And, health problems that they have? You mentioned hypertension.

**Miss Smith** They have...They both have been diagnosed with high blood pressure.

**Jane Crone** And are they treated for it at this time? Do you know?'

**Miss Smith** Yes.

**Jane Crone** Ok. Alrighty. And tell me about, let's go up to your parents, tell me about your parents. Are your parents living?'

**Miss Smith** My mother is.

**Jane Crone** And how old is she?'

**Miss Smith** She's 60.

**Jane Crone** Alright. Health concerns or health things that she is treated for?'

**Miss Smith** She's treated for high blood pressure.

**Jane Crone** She is. Ok, alright. Your father?'

**Miss Smith** He died in a car accident.

**Jane Crone** Ok, and old was he when he passed?'

**Miss Smith** About 55.

**Jane Crone** Ok, and was his health good? What do you know about his health?'

**Miss Smith** As far as I know it was good.

**Jane Crone** Lets go... Let's talk about your grandparents. Tell me first about your father's parents.

**Miss Smith** They died when... They died of natural causes but I'm not sure we know when they died or how old they were when they died.

**Jane Crone** Ok, and your mom's parents? Are they living?

**Miss Smith** No, they're dead as well. They both had strokes in their 80's.

**Jane Crone** Ok, and were you aware, was their hypertension diagnosed with them also? Do you know?

**Miss Smith** No I don't know.

**Jane Crone** Ok, alright. Well, we've talked about the concern that you have that is the hypertension in your family. And it is certainly something that it looks like you have a family history of, and you should look at more closely.

**Miss Smith** Ok.

**Jane Crone** This concludes the family history.

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