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7/26/2023

Clinical correlations

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Reflection on PD Lab H&Ps

1. What differences do you note between the two H&Ps?

I feel that the biggest difference between both H&Ps is shown in my third H&P. As you compare both, you can tell that I was more thorough with what I was putting into my H&P. The comments that I got from both of my first H&Ps helped aid me in creating a better one for the last round of hospital visits. Also it's nice to see how much I've learned and progressed into writing a more comprehensive H&P as we learned more in PD class and lab.

2. In what ways has your history-taking improved? Are you eliciting all the important information?

I feel that for the most part I was eliciting almost all of the important information. One of the ways my history taking has improved has been through making sure I add all of the pertinent information about the patient I'm interviewing into my history taking. In my first write up, my history taking was lacking in including that my patient was diabetic in the first line of my HPI as opposed to only having it in the past medical history since it was pertinent to my patients reason for being in the hospital. I feel that missing this made my HPI lack in being complete and is one of the things I showed improvement in my other two H&Ps.

3. In what ways has writing an HPI improved? (hint: look at the rubric scores)

I feel that as I continued to do my two other H&Ps I started to understand more of what the structure of a HPI needed so that it can be perfected. This was reflected in the comments that I got for my third and final HPI.

4. What is your self-assessment of your current skill in performing a physical exam? Which areas do you feel strongest about/weakest about?

I feel that a self-assessment of my current skill in performing a physical exam has improved since my first few H&Ps. There are still some areas where I feel that I am lacking in. One of the more challenging parts of performing the physical exam is being confident in front of a brand new patient and making sure I know what I am doing. In my opinion, I feel that the more we learned in the PD lab through hands-on learning with my fellow colleagues, helped me perfect my physical exam when I went to my hospital visits.

5. Of course we expect you to get stronger in all areas, but which of the specific areas will you target as needing particular focus in future patient visits when you start the clinical year?

I feel that specific areas where I need to focus on include making sure I obtain all of the important information in the past medical history section of my H&Ps. In my third and final H&P, I still missed some information that should have been asked, including getting a smoker pack history, which is vital information to have documented. Also improving on performing a fundoscopic exam and abdominal exam is my current focused priority that I plan on perfecting, so I can be more thorough with my future patients.