

# History-Taking IN OPHTHALMOLOGY

1

## GENERAL DATA

Start with demographic data, like you would in any other consultation. Ask for your patient's name, age, sex, occupation, and place of residence.

2

## CHIEF COMPLAINT

Help your patients describe what is bothering them.

If they say "masakit ang mata", help them differentiate between intraocular pain and foreign body sensation.

If they say "lumalaki ang mata", help them clarify if it is proptosis, lid retraction or buphthalmos.

3

## HISTORY OF PRESENT ILLNESS

First, focus on the evolution of the chief complaint.

Then, review the systemic symptoms.

Lastly, review the ocular symptoms.

You may ask about the following:

- redness/ pain
- pruritus/ foreign body sensation
- discharge or tearing
- blurring of vision
- color vision changes
- visual field cuts
- floaters/ photopsia
- photophobia
- diplopia

## 4

### **PAST MEDICAL HISTORY**

Ask about comorbidities, like

- Hypertension
- Diabetes mellitus
- Bronchial asthma

Ask about infections, previous surgeries and hospitalizations.

Ask about past ocular history, like

- spectacle use
- eye trauma
- eye surgery
- eye medications

## 5

### **FAMILY MEDICAL HISTORY**

Ask about systemic and ocular conditions that may have a familial pattern or risk, such as

- Hypertension
- Diabetes mellitus
- Bronchial asthma
- Glaucoma
- Congenital anomalies
- Malignancy

Ask about conditions that may be spread among close contacts, like

- Tuberculosis
- Conjunctivitis

## 6

### **PERSONAL & SOCIAL HISTORY**

Ask about their occupation and source of livelihood, educational attainment, living conditions, and other factors that may affect their health-seeking behavior.

Ask about cigarette smoking or cigarette smoke exposure, alcohol consumption, and substance abuse.