

PATIENT ASSESSMENT

History taking

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A thorough past medical history , surgical history and systemic enquiry should be documented, including important negatives (Table 21.1). The history of past surgery and anaesthetic events can reveal the problems one may face during future procedures e.g. intra-abdominal adhesions for planned lapa - roscopic surgery , a di ffi cult airway or suxamethonium apnoea. The use of recreational drugs and alcohol consumption should be noted as they are known to be associated with adverse outcomes. A full drug history and list of allergies should be documented. Social history , ability to communicate and mobil - ity are important in planning admission, discharge route and rehabilitation after surgery .

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