

Building Patient History Skills.

For this assignment, I have decided to do it with a chest X-ray. Chest exams are some of the most common exams in diagnostic imaging. We use these exams to evaluate the lungs, heart, and chest. We take these to look for any abnormalities or conditions like fluid accumulation, pneumonia, chest pain, enlarged heart, etc. It is especially important to obtain accurate patient history when examining a chest. History can help the radiologist know what to look for and how to interpret the images given. If you do not get patient history, you can easily pass by important information. For example, if they have a pacemaker, dextrocardia, history of lung cancer, etc.

When questioning my patient, I tried focusing on questions that would assist in determining the reason for the exam and/or any underlying conditions. I asked about their chief complaint, if they were experiencing shortness of breath, a cough, or chest pain. For patient history, I asked if there was any history of pulmonary or cardiac disease, or a history of smoking. My patient did not have any history of diseases that she knew of, but she is a chronic smoker. Her major complaints were shortness of breath and chest pain when breathing. Questions I should've asked could include any past surgeries that have taken place. It would be good to know if she has any hardware on her chest. I also should have asked if she had been exposed to any viruses or sick people lately. These questions and answers are important to relate back to the radiologist so they can better diagnose the patient, and they can look deeper into the exams and find any underlying conditions. If they don't get a proper history, they can look past important things in the image.

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Overall, I think my patient history building skills are decent and effective. I would rate them a 7/10. I could improve by asking more in-depth questions about environmental exposures and past surgery history. I know I play an important role in helping diagnoses. Improving my patient history skills will help make diagnoses easier for the radiologist. I plan to improve them with increased practice at each of my clinical sites.