

The neurological assessment

An update

Dennis Chan, Consultant Neurologist

History taking –onset

seconds/minutes

vascular – spasm
electrical

hours

vascular - thromboembolic

days

metabolic/infective

weeks

inflammatory

months

infiltrative/neoplastic

years

degenerative

History taking – evolution

improvement – single event

recurrence - episodic

fluctuation

static

progressive

speed of progression

History taking – diagnostic refinement

- Where is the lesion? (the anatomy)
 - CNS
 - PNS
- What is the lesion? (the pathology)
- Single lesion, or multiple?

History taking – symptom clarification

“Weakness”

“Numbness”

“Dizziness”

“Memory”

History taking – symptom features

Positive symptoms

tingling

excess movement

Negative symptoms

numbness

weakness

History taking – symptom complexes

Purely neurological disorder vs

Neurological symptoms within systemic disorder

Pure sensory

Pure motor

Mixed sensorimotor