

Systems Review

A full systems review should not be asked of every patient. You should ask the system reviews relevant to the presenting complaint to determine the presence/absence of any possible associated symptoms. This should be done as part of the history of presenting complaint section. E.g. for left iliac fossa pain, after asking questions about the pain, you should ask gastrointestinal, urological and, if female, obstetric and gynaecological systems questions. You must also go on to ask further symptom-specific questions for each positive symptom (*see notes on [exploding symptoms](#)*).

General

- Fever/rigors/night sweats, weight loss, fatigue, skin rashes/bruising

Neurological

- **General:** fits/falls/LOC, headache, dizziness, vision/hearing, memory loss, neck stiffness/photophobia
- **Motor:** weakness/wasting, incontinence
- **Sensory:** pain, numbness, tingling

ENT

- **Ear:** hearing loss, tinnitus, otalgia
- **Nose:** rhinorrhoea, epistaxis
- **Throat:** sore throat, odynophagia

Cardiorespiratory

- Chest pain, palpitations, SOB/wheeze, cough, sputum, leg swelling

Gastrointestinal

- **Weight:** weight loss, appetite change
- **Work down body:** dysphagia, nausea/vomiting, indigestion/heartburn, abdominal pain, bowel habit change, blood/mucus in stool

Urological

- **Storage:** frequency, volume, urgency/nocturia
- **Infection:** dysuria, haematuria
- **Prostatic/voiding (if male):** hesitancy, poor flow/dribbling, feeling of incomplete emptying

Obstetric and Gynaecological

- **PV Bleeding:** menorrhagia, inter-menstrual bleeding, post-coital, post-menopausal bleeding
- **PV Discharge**
- **Pain:** pelvic/dysmenorrhoea/dyspareunia
- **Pregnancy:**
 - Chance of pregnancy
 - If pregnant: fetal movements, contractions/tightening, PV loss, pre-eclampsia symptoms (headache, visual disturbance, epigastric pain, oedema)
- + Rest of O&G specialty-specific history if relevant (*see notes on [obstetric and gynaecological histories](#)*)

Rheumatological

- **Joints:** pain, stiffness, swelling
- **Work down body:** skin (rashes, ulcers, Raynaud's), hair loss, eyes (redness, dryness), mouth (dryness), chest (breathlessness, SOB), GI (IBD symptoms), GU (discharge)

Orthopaedic

- **Joints/bone/soft tissue:** pain, stiffness, swelling, movement restriction/ability to weight bear
- **Mechanical symptoms:** locking, giving way
- **Neurological symptoms:** weakness, numbness, paraesthesia

Psychiatric

- **Schizophrenia 1st rank symptoms:**
 1. 3rd person auditory hallucinations
 2. Running commentary auditory hallucinations
 3. Delusions of thought
 4. Delusions of control
 5. Delusional perception
- **Depression screen:** core (mood, anhedonia), biological (sleep, energy), future (hopelessness, suicidal thoughts)
- **Other:** memory loss, anxiety, insight
- **RISK!!!:** to self, to others