



Sample OSCE Station 4

Examiner instructions

Station specific instructions

Ensure you run through the presentation of a left homonymous field defect with the simulated patient.

At the 30-second announcement ask the candidate to give you their reasoned diagnosis, if they have not done so already.

If the candidate tries to examine the patient or asks the occlude an eye, stop the candidate and say only a verbal history is required in this station.

Construct

The candidate demonstrates the ability to take a history from a patient with headaches and visual field loss, and reaches a reasoned diagnosis of an underlying post chiasmal neurological condition.

Objectives

Content

1. Presenting complaint

- Both eyes affected
- Visual field affected rather than visual acuity
- Recent onset
- Severity and nature of headaches
- Bumping into things
- Reading difficulty, finding the beginning of the next line

2. Other history

- GP not aware of problem, no investigation in process
- General health/ smoker
- No relevant family and previous personal history
- No double vision
- No nausea
- No head trauma
- No other neurological symptoms e.g. tingling, loss of speech

3. Reasoned diagnosis and findings

- Identifies there is a left homonymous field defect
- Diagnoses a possible right-sided CVA/ stroke/ post-chiasmal tumour
- Reasons- neurological field loss with headaches and associated risk factors eg: age, smoker, no head trauma

Communication

4. Relating to the Patient

- Introduces self to patient
- Is polite, considerate and respectful
- Acknowledges the patient's concerns and is empathetic, if applicable

5. Listening and Questioning

- Uses appropriate questioning techniques (open/closed/probing)
- Listens to and explores the patient's response(s)
- Checks they have understood the patient's symptoms and concerns

6. Fluency of Performance

- Logical
- Confident
- Professional

Candidate instructions

Mo Maguire is a retired 75-year-old teacher, who has come to your practice for an eye examination because their vision has changed. Take a relevant history and then give a reasoned diagnosis to the examiner.

If you have not already done so, the examiner will prompt you for your reasoned diagnosis at the 30-second announcement.

You have five minutes for this station.

Simulated patient instructions

Role player name

Mo Maguire

No of actors

1

Description

Any, 75

Requirements

N/A

Background

You are Mo Maguire, a 75-year-old retired primary school teacher. You have noticed a change in your vision and are experiencing headaches. You have not seen your GP, but have come to your optometrists for an eye examination today. You don't drive.

Presentation

You have come in to see your optometrist because you have been experiencing some difficulty when reading over the last few days. Your vision seems okay when you look straight ahead, and you are struggling to put your finger on exactly what is wrong.

Detail to be given only if specifically asked:

- The main problem with reading is finding the beginning of the next line, but the text is not blurred.

- Something seems missing to the left, the right hand side is not a problem. This is constant and affects both distance and close vision

- If you move your eyes or head to look to the left, the problem seems less obvious, this is noticed with either one eye open or both eyes open

- You also seem to be bumping into things on the left hand side over the last month

- You have also been suffering from a constant headache, for three or four weeks. This is not something you usually suffer from, but you have not seen your GP. The headaches are severe all over the head. You have been taking paracetamol daily for the last two weeks, but these do not seem to help much.

- You have no nausea or double vision or any other symptoms.

If you are unsure about this description of your symptoms, ask the examiner to explain further.

Past History

You wear glasses for reading and close work; your last eye examination was six months ago when all was normal. You had new glasses then, and have been happy with them. You have not

had any falls or bangs to the head. You are a smoker and smoke 10 a day.

General Health

Your general health has been good until now as far as you know; you haven't been to your GP for a number of years (over five). You have not taken any medication other than the paracetamol.

Family History

No health problems in the family as far as you know.

How to Play the Role

You are quite stoical, and are also caring for a terminally ill partner, so don't really have time to worry about your own health. You thought the headaches were due to the strain of looking after your partner and so have not worried much about them, but as your vision seems to be getting worse have arranged to come for an eye examination. To relax in the evening, you like to read but this has become difficult. You only use your laptop/tablet infrequently and haven't used it in the last month.

Questions to ask if given the opportunity

None

Equipment

Station specific

N/A

Standard

- Four chairs
- Three clipboards
- Three pencils
- One eraser
- One pencil sharpener
- Plain paper