

Short Cases on Cardiovascular Disease

Introduction

Considerable numbers of patients with cardiovascular disease will present with ischaemic heart disease, but there are other clinical conditions and long term problems that primary health care clinicians need to be aware of. Typically, cardiovascular conditions affect patients in middle age and later life, but this module has three cases relating to younger patients and only the patient in case one is in the older age range. Ischaemic heart disease is the focus of a separate PBSGL module and a module on atrial fibrillation is in production. Usually, PBSGL modules have a box in the introduction section with the aims of the module listed, but it was felt that this 'gave the game away' with regards to potential diagnoses of the four cases that follow, so we have omitted it.

The cases are designed to illustrate the problems described in the aims of the module. They are real cases but are **not** meant to be the focus of the group's discussion. Instead, PBSGL groups are encouraged to think of similar cases in their own place of work.

Studying all the cases is not compulsory. If the group runs short of time and completing the group feedback is still to be done, it is better to leave out a case completely. The feedback, where group members say what changes they will make in practice as a result of the meeting, is an essential part of the learning process – more important than “completing the cases”.