

THE FINAL ASSESSMENT

THIS IS VITAL PART OF YOUR EXAMINATION SO PRESENT IT PROPERLY

Include all problems that have been identified but do not simply list all positive findings.

Assess the child and do not only summarize

For example:

“My assessment of Jacob is that he is a 4-year-old little boy who has severe acute malnutrition with oedema. He has chronic suppurative lung disease as evidenced by abnormally shaped chest, clubbing and cough productive of purulent sputum. He also has evidence of Cor-pulmonale on the basis of having epigastric pulsation, a LPSH and a loud P2. He also has generalized lymphadenopathy”.

“Most likely causes of these problems in children are HIV infection with CLD following recurrent or severe infections. He does not have parotid enlargement but I think it is still important to consider LIP. Other important considerations would include TB as it is important to remember that not everything is due to HIV and to consider other causes like cystic fibrosis, which although uncommon, do occur in black children.”

“My approach to manage this child would be”:

First, relevant history including the HIV status, TB contacts, any severe/recurrent ARI's and previous pulmonary TB. The relevant investigations would include:

1. HIV status
2. CXR – “I would look for changes suggestive of TB or LIP and most importantly it would be useful to review old CXRs”. Lateral view CXR – look for Donut Sign (Cape Town Sign)
3. Mantoux and AFB's
4. CD4% if HIV infected and a review of social circumstances to start ARVs
5. FBC looking for evidence of acute infection (WBC) and the Hb to determine if plethoric from long term hypoxia or anaemia
6. ESR nonspecific but helpful for diagnostic and prognostic purpose
7. Procalcitonin, c reactive protein and albumin will give one an idea of the inflammation

MANAGEMENT

Depends on the diagnosis made

The longer you talk sensibly, the better you will do. To do well, you need to efficiently examine the child so that there is time for your assessment and discussion!

Time is of essence. Good luck and all the best!