The General Survey

- The first study of the whole person—an overall impression of the whole person
  - Includes
    - Physical appearance
    - Body Structure
    - Mobility
    - Behavior
    - Vital signs

Physical Appearance

- Age—does the person appear stated age?
- Gender—note any physical development
- LOC—is the patient alert and orientated
- Skin color—tone, color, intact
- Facial features—symmetrical, movement
Body Structure

- Nutrition - weight, well or mal-nourished (WDWN)
- Symmetry - body parts equal and in proportion
- Posture - erect, slumped over
- Position - note how patient is sitting
- Body build - contour

Mobility

- Gait - how does the patient walk? steady, smooth, unsteady
- ROM - note mobility of joints
- Body movements - are they purposeful, any tremors, immobile body parts

Behavior

- Facial expression - does the patient maintain eye contact
- Mood and affect - cooperative, flat
- Speech - clear, garbled
- Personal hygiene - clean, disheveled, unwashed clothing
- Dress - appropriate, cultural, inappropriate
- Developmental elements - differ for children, elderly
Vital Signs

- Vitals are included in the general survey
- It is important to know the normal ranges for the age of the patient

- Also includes height and weight measurements
  - Refer to growth tables