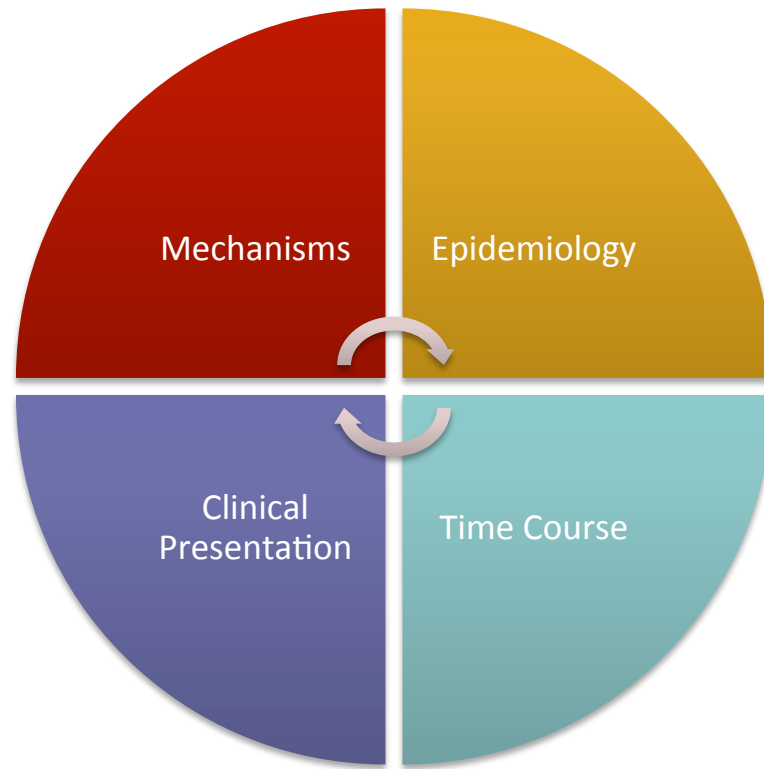


Illness Scripts

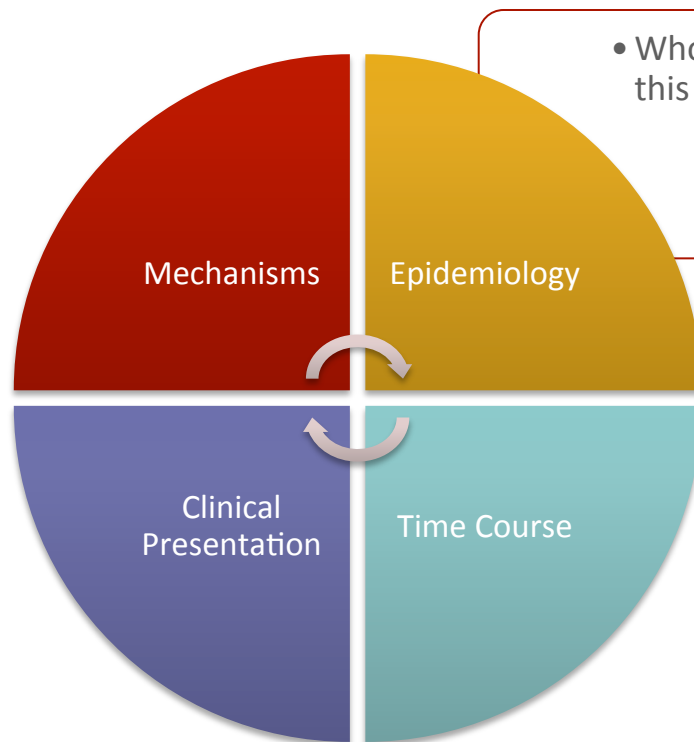
Illness Scripts: A Tool for Compare & Contrast

- Useful storage packets of information known **as ILLNESS SCRIPTS**.
- Limitless in number in an expert's brain.
- Shaped by reading and refined by clinical experience
- Their structure facilitates compare and contrast thinking and access of the information in the clinical environment.

Common Components of Illness Scripts



Illness Scripts: Epidemiology



- Who Gets this Disease?

Demographics:

- Age
- Gender
- Race or Ethnicity

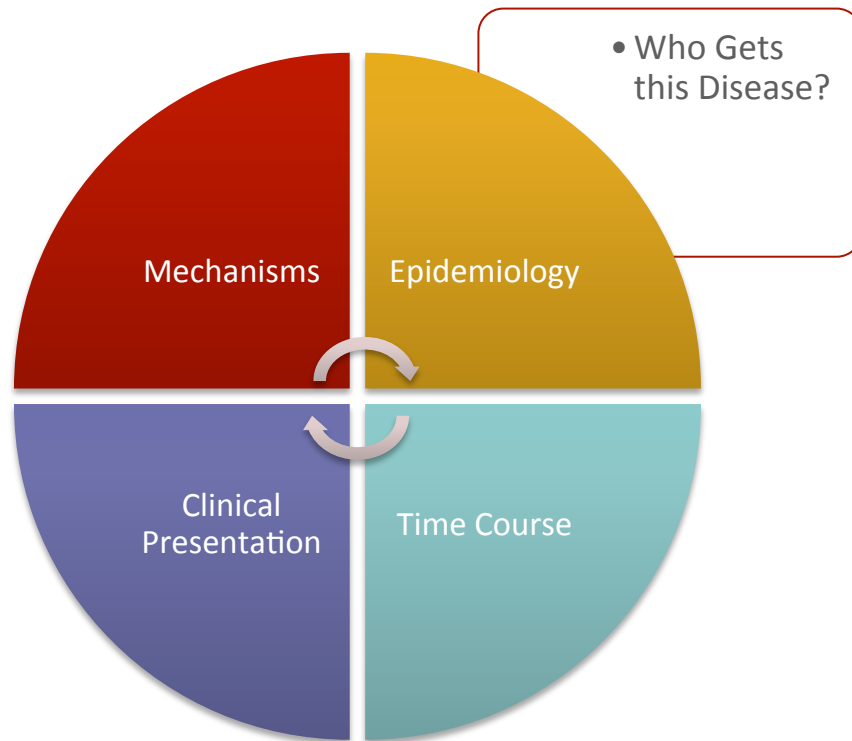
Risk Factors:

- Other Conditions

Exposures:

- Travel
- Occupation
- Activities (Sexual, Hobbies)
- Pets or Hobbies
- Close contacts

Illness Scripts: Epidemiology Example



Acute Retroviral Syndrome:

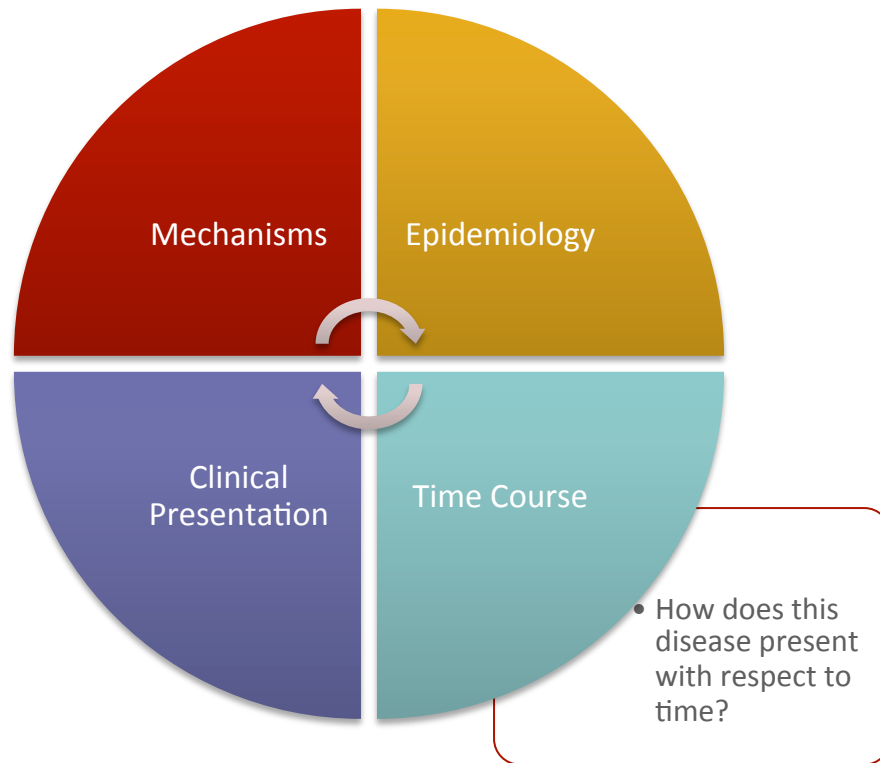
Important:

Recent exposure to blood or body fluids

Not important:

Age, race, gender, ethnicity, sexual preference

Illness Scripts: Time Course



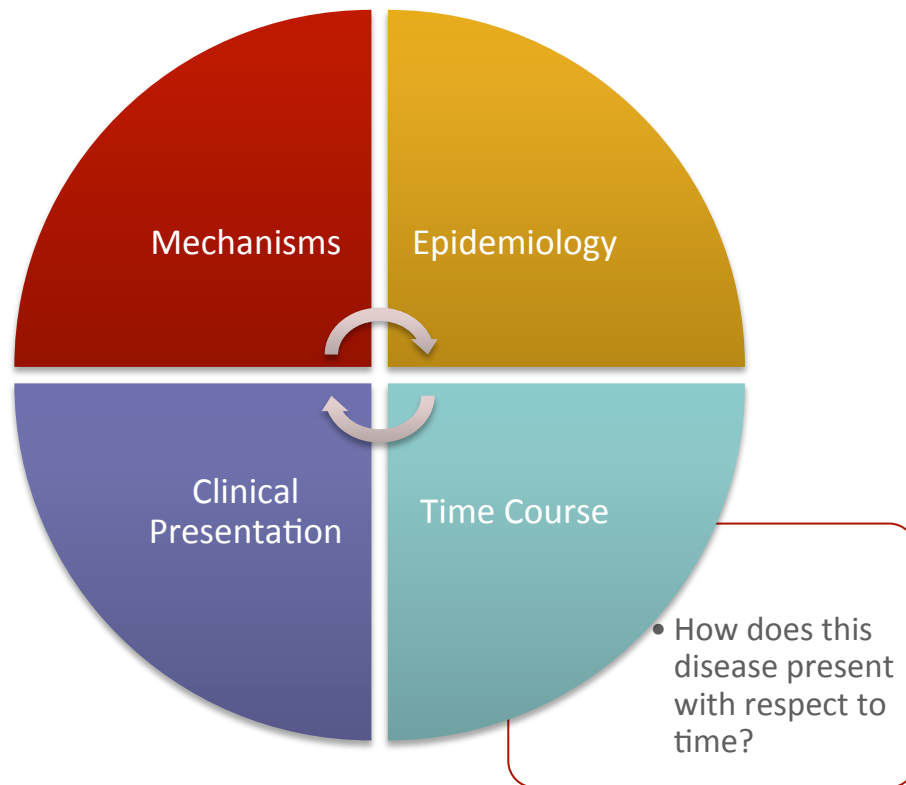
Duration of Prodrome or Symptoms:

- Hyperacute
- Acute
- Subacute
- Chronic

Pattern of Prodrome or Symptoms

- Constant
 - Stable or worsening
- Episodic
 - Waxing and waning
 - Biphasic
 - Intermittent

Illness Scripts: Time Course Examples



Pneumococcal Meningitis:

Acute to Hyperacute presentation

Tuberculous Meningitis:

Subacute to Chronic Presentation

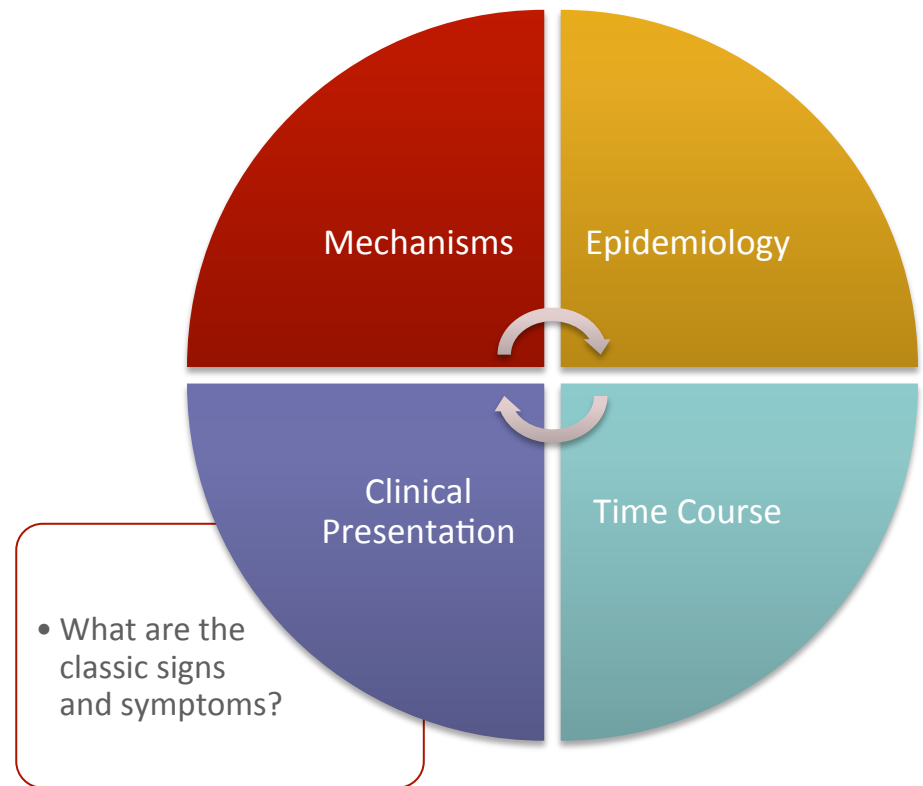
HSV Meningitis:

Recurrent Acute Presentation

Illness Scripts: Classic Signs and Symptoms

Classic Signs and Symptoms:

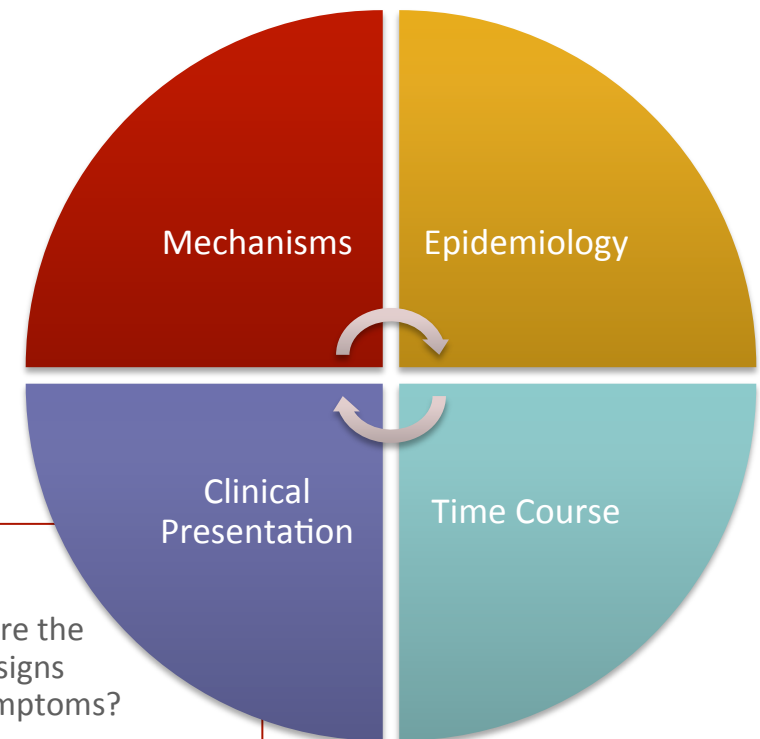
- **Key** and **Differentiating** Features: those features that allow you to distinguish between diseases that may present with the same syndrome. Subsets (not present in all conditions)
 - **MUST HAVE** Features: Without it, the disease can't be diagnosed
 - **REJECTING** Features: If present, this diagnosis can't be made



Illness Scripts: Clinical Presentation Examples

In a patient with Shortness of Breath:

If you are considering:	Key and differentiating features might be
CHF	S3, rales, bilateral edema
Acute PE	Increased P2, clear lungs, asymmetric edema
Pneumonia	Fever, egophony, sputum production



- What are the classic signs and symptoms?

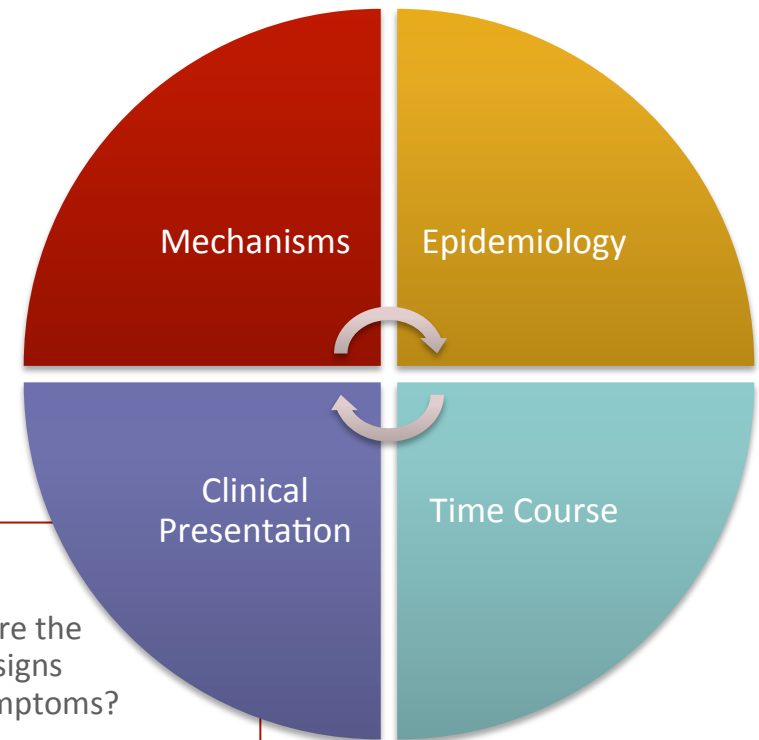
Illness Scripts: Clinical Presentation Examples

Example of a REJECTING Feature:

Hyperactive Reflexes are incompatible with a diagnosis of Guillain Barre Syndrome

Example of a MUST HAVE Feature:

Patients with ascending cholangitis must have jaundice.



- What are the classic signs and symptoms?

Illness Scripts: Pathophysiology

What are the known derangements in:

Anatomy

Physiology

Immunology

Biochemical pathways

Genetics/Epigenetics, Metabolomics

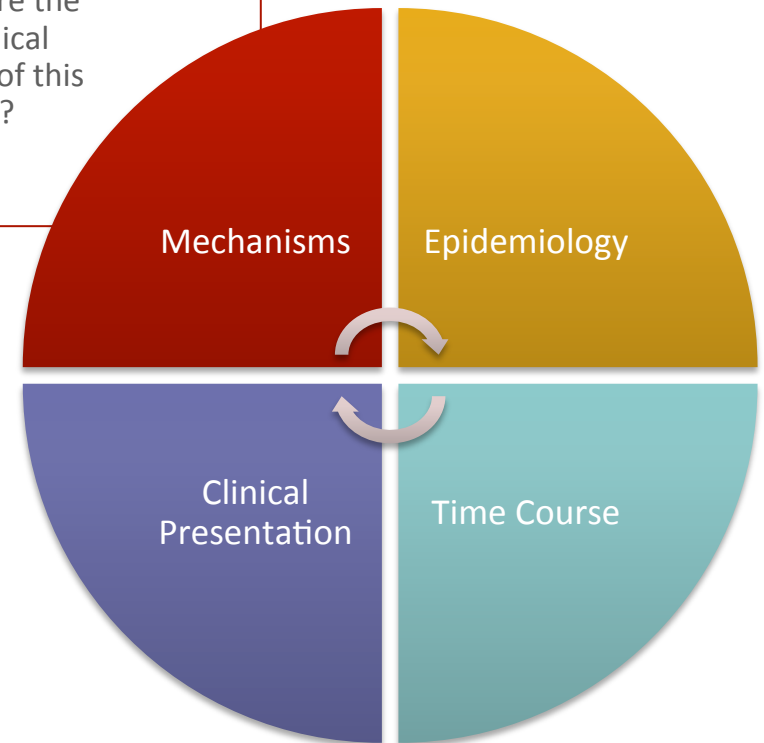
What are known environmental contributors:

Microbiology

Toxins

Pharmacology

- What are the biomedical causes of this disease?



What about variants?

- You must master the rule before you learn exceptions to the rules.
- The illness script is like the frame of a house
- With experience, details are added to the illness script: like adding dry wall, electricity, plumbing
- As learners mature, they add more nuanced information: like adding wallpaper, furniture, artwork.

Quiz 3

Illness Scripts are:

1. Identical between clinicians
2. Classic disease representations
3. Random collections of facts about diseases
4. Static descriptions once they are formed

Quiz 4

In Illness Scripts, Epidemiology refers to:

1. The biomedical mechanisms of disease
2. A description of classic signs and symptoms
3. A description of how a disease presents over time.
4. A description of what type of person gets this disease