

Medical Problem

by

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INT. HOSPITAL WARD - DAY

6 beds are on the left side of the room and 6 beds are on the right. PATIENTS lie on them looking bored. They all have fancy equipment immediately by their sides. In the middle of the room is a super clean floor that busy NURSES walk up and down. Two FEMALE NURSES (30s) wearing blue aprons approach a very short 40 year old PATIENT with bandages on his forehead. He looks concerned.

NURSE 1
Hello, Mr. Pickle.

PATIENT
It's Mr. Graham.

NURSE 1
Ah. I think I just said that because you're in a pickle...

PATIENT
Really?

NURSE 2
Yes, very much so. The thing is, we can't even pronounce your condition, let alone treat it. After getting an email from our boss diagnosing you, me and my colleagues have been trying to say it for ages, but we just can't get our heads around it...

PATIENT
That sounds bad...

NURSE 1
Oh very much so.

PATIENT
So you can't make me better?

NURSE 1
I'm sorry but we really need to be able to pronounce something. Once we've figured that out, that's the first step, but it's simply impossible for us to do so...

The PATIENT looks tense.

PATIENT
Please try!

NURSE 2 exhales deeply.

NURSE 2
 Here are the letters of your
 condition. I'm sure you'll empathise.
 Ok: P,s,e,u,d,o,p,s,e,u,d,o,h,y,p,o,
 p,a,r,a,t,h,y,r,o,i,d,i,s,m... That's
 what we're dealing with, here.

PATIENT
 I'm screwed, aren't I?

NURSE 2
 Oh, yes indeed.

PATIENT
 Can't you break the word down into
 small chunks?

NURSE 1 nods in thought.

NURSE 1
 It's worth a try, I suppose...

NURSE 2 looks equally thoughtful.

NURSE 2
 Is the first 'p' silent?

The PATIENT looks hopeful if confused.

PATIENT
 I think so...

NURSE 1
 Yes, that's what confused us all!

PATIENT
 We're getting there now...

NURSE 1 concentrates extra hard and narrows her eyes.

NURSE 1
 Ok, so... Say-ud-oh?

PATIENT
 I think it's 'soo-dough'...

NURSE 1
 Soo-dough-soo-dough! Now we're
 getting somewhere!

NURSE 2
 What about h,y,p,o?

NURSE 1
 Hippo?

PATIENT
High-poh!

NURSE 1
Soo-dough-soo-dough-high-poh!

NURSE 2
Carry on like this and we may even be
able to treat you!

The PATIENT exhales.

PATIENT
We can do this...

NURSE 1
Ok, next up is p,a,r,a...

NURSE 2
Pah-rar?

PATIENT
Pa-ra!

NURSE 1
This is the really tricky part: t,h,
y,r,o,i,d,i,s,m...

NURSE 2 looks down.

NURSE 2
Dear God, no. Just when we thought we
were getting somewhere. Mr. Graham is
doomed.

The PATIENT smiles.

PATIENT
Fi-royd-izm!

NURSE 2
Really?

PATIENT
Yes!

NURSE 2
Soo-dough-soo-dough-high-po-pa-ra-fi-
royd-izm??

PATIENT
Sounds good to me!

NURSE 1
Great!

NURSE 2
Do you know how long you've had it?

PATIENT
Errrrr.... I think it's an inherited
condition...

NURSE 2
You're not sure?

PATIENT
I've hit my head pretty hard.

NURSE 2 nods, understanding.

NURSE 2
Ahhhhh.

NURSE 1
We're not very good at our jobs. Are
we treating you for the head injury,
your condition or both?

PATIENT
Not sure.

NURSE 1
I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll
treat the head injury first, as it's
probably something more to worry
about.

NURSE 2
Great thinking.

NURSE 1
Thanks, girl. So, the medicine you
need is... hm. Let me Google it for
you...

NURSE 1 picks a phone from her pocket and gets tapping.

NURSE 1
Right, head injuries can be treated
with... o,s,m,o,t,i,c,d,i,u,r,e,t,i,
c,s... Any help?

NURSE 2
Not this again.

NURSE 1 face palms.

NURSE 1
Look Mr. Graham, everyone dies, now
it's just your time. That's all.

PATIENT
Oz-mot-ic-die-yor-et-ics!

NURSE 1
Ohhhh, ok. False alarm, you should be fine. Can you explain what it means?

PATIENT
Do you know what 'intravenously' means?

NURSE 1
No...

PATIENT
Google it! It has something to do with the new word that's apparently so hard!

NURSE 1
What, Google intravenously or the strange medicine?

PATIENT
Either!

NURSE 1
I'll do the medicine, simply out of curiosity.

NURSE 1 does more tapping.

NURSE 1
An osmotic diuretic is a type of diuretic that inhibits reabsorption of water and sodium. What's that mean, Mr. Graham?

PATIENT
Er...

NURSE 1
I'd hurry if I was you. There are other people here who have far easier conditions to treat. Like diabetes. You treat it with insulin. THAT'S simple, you on the other hand are a pest.

PATIENT
Can I at least have some painkillers?

NURSE 1 grins.

NURSE 1
Ah, a Judas Priest fan??

PATIENT
No...

NURSE 2
Sure you are. Can't stop the
painkiller!

PATIENT
What does that mean?

NURSE 2
I have to be honest with you, I'm not
sure. It's a good song, though.

NURSE 1
Agreed. I like treating this person
now.

NURSE 2
Right! At first I thought he was a
bit attention seeking, but now I see
he's a man with great taste. I'll get
you your music!

NURSE 1
Yes! But we still can't treat your
other condition. Too weird.

PATIENT
Swings and roundabouts?

NURSE 1
Yes!

The HOSPITAL BOSS (50) enters the ward. He stares hard at
the NURSES. They look proud.

BOSS
What's going on here? What's all this
arguing? I've heard it all the way
though the door!

NURSE 1
We're treating a patient that has a
weird condition with Judas Priest,
sir.

BOSS
What was that?

NURSE 2
You know... Can't stop the
painkiller!

BOSS
Will it work??

NURSE 1
Yeah!

BOSS
In that case, I'll go. Great work!

The BOSS leaves the room.

NURSE 1
See that, Mr. Graham? Great work!
You're in safe hands!

NARRATOR
A few days later, all patients on the
ward died. The nurses and the boss
are now in jail, and Judas Priest are
suing them for damage of reputation.
A bit predictable? Well, someone who
wasn't even in the sketch died as
well. Bet you didn't see that coming.
Bye!