



### "Your baby should be arriving on this date. I just emailed you the tracking number."





I asked the surgeon if I could administer my own anesthetic. She said, "Sure. Knock yourself out!"



## Colonoscopy Prep Instructions Inbox × Butts, Angie <Angie.Butts@\_\_\_.org> @ Wed, Jul 5, to me •

Wed, Jul 5, 4:26 PM (14 hours ago) ☆ ∽ Reply :

77

Colonoscopy arrival time is: 8:00 AM on 7/17/2023 with a driver available for pick up. (Driver may stay, or if dropping off, be available 2 to 2.5 hours later for pick up)

• Please read over instructions carefully several days prior to procedure (remember LOW fiber diet, NO nuts, seeds, berries).



"Well, his appendix has got to be in here somewhere ... Dang! It's like trying to operate in a bowl full of jelly!"









- Psychiatrist Tom has a side gig at the nearby wildlife sanctuary. He treats depressed alligators.
  - He's calling it a reptile-dysfunction clinic.



# First case of crocpox found in U.K...



# A few weeks ago, Mike said he'd deal with his severe DDD (dilly-dallying disorder) as soon as possible.



A single woman went to a dentist to have a tooth pulled, and there was instant electricity between the two of them. They made love right there in his office, and she came back week after week so they could make love over and over again. However, one day, he said sadly, "I'm afraid we're going to have to end our wonderful affair next week. I'm so sorry."

In shock, she asked, "Why??"

He said, "You have only one tooth left."

- Prairie Home Companion



## WHY IS DENTISTRY IMPORTANT?

Because even though he's missing an eyebrow, the first thing we all notice is his smile.

## "I said, 'IT'S QUITE OBVIOUS TO ME, MR. SINGERMAN, THAT YOU APPEAR TO BE IN A DEEP DEPRESSION!"











#### Flight attendant: "Is there a doctor onboard??"

My dad, nudging me: "That should've been you."

Me: "Not now, Dad!"

Dad: "Hmmph, they're not asking for a graphic designer to help, eh?"

Me: "Daaad, there's a medical emergency right now! Stop it!"

Dad: "So why don't you save the victim as a PDF and see it that helps?"





"Frankly, I don't enjoy prostate exams any more than you do!"



TERMS AND CONDITIONS ALL LATE PAYMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO A 1.5% LATE FEE CALCULATED PER MONTH OF DELAY. FAILURE TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING AMOUNTS WILL RESULT IN LEGAL PROCEDURES IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE

UNITED STATES AND STATE LAWS

# eye doctor

#### Do you have any history of mental illness in your family?

#### I have an uncle who is voting for Donald Trump











### "I'll give you something for gas."



My doctor told me that my emotional attachment to CBD gummies is an edible complex!



"We combined all your medications into ONE convenient dose."







# Parking lot in front of the Laser Eye Surgery Center.


# England has no kidney bank but it does have a liver pool.

- M. E. Kabay





# When you absolutely refuse to have your annual mammography.

- M. E. Kabay



Artery Bacteria Caesarean Section Dilate Fester Fibula Labor Pain Medical Staff Morbid Nitrates Node Outpatient Pelvis **Post Operative Recovery Room** Seizure Tablet Terminal Illness Tumor

#### MEDICAL DICTIONARY

The study of paintings Back door to cafeteria A neighborhood in Rome To live long Quicker than someone else A small lie Getting hurt at work A doctor's cane A higher offer Higher than day rates I knew it A person who has fainted Second cousin to Elvis A letter carrier Place to do upholstery Roman emperor A small table Getting sick at the airport One plus one more





"Time of death: 7:31 P.M. Which means we missed 'Jeopardy!' for nothing."





"I medicate first and ask questions later."

# LOOSE PARTS





"First, let's get you nice and numb for this procedure."

## WHEN A NURSE TAKES UP GARDENING

# NURSES IN HEAVEN



Three nurses die and go up to heaven. St Peter says, "So tell me - what did you do with your life?"

The first nurse says, "Well, I worked in an emergency room and it was really challenging, but we were able to help some people and I think that was worthwhile."

St Peter says, "That's great! Come on in - I know you'll enjoy heaven."

The second nurse says, "I worked in a hospice, and it was difficult, because all the patients died. But we were kind to them and to their families and friends, and I think that was worthwhile."

The third nurse says, "For the last two decades of my

St Peter says, "Excellent! Come in - you'll enjoy heaven!" life, I worked in administration for managed-care in an HMO in the US."

St Peter wrinkles his brow and pulls out a stack of manuals, a calculator, and a pencil. He spends time writing and scrunching up the paper, but then looks up and says, "I can approve you for a five-day stay."



Doctor, here is the list of donor hearts, kidneys and livers in alphabetical order.

#### Wow, it's very ...

#### Organ-ized.



A struggling painter gets a call from the agent that has been showing her paintings at a local gallery. The agent says, "Listen, I have some good news and some bad news."

"What's the good news?" asks the painter.

Well, a guy walked into the gallery this morning and asked if your work might increase after you die. I said, 'Yes!' and he bought all 15 of your paintings!"

"Wow, that's great!" says the painter. "But what's the bad news?"

"He said he's your doctor."



### THE PARTNERSHIP

Best friends graduated from medical school at the same time & decided that in spite of two different specialties, they would open a practice together to share office space. Dr Smith was a Psychiatrist & Dr Jones was a Proctologist.

They put up a sign reading

Dr Smith & Dr Jones Hysterias & Posteriors

The town council was livid and insisted they change it. So, the docs changed it to read

Schizoids & Hemorrhoids

This was also not acceptable, so they again changed the sign to

Catatonics & High Colonics No go. Next, they tried...

> Manic Depressives & Anal Retentives

Thumbs down again. Then came..

Minds and Behinds Still no good. Another attempt resulted in...

Lost Souls & Butt Holes Unacceptable again! So they tried

Analysis & Anal Cysts Not a chance! Nuts and Butts

No way!

Freaks and Cheeks

Still no good!

Loons and Moons

Forget it!

Almost at their wits end, the docs finally came up with:

Dr Smith & Dr Jones Specializing in Odds & Ends Everyone loved it.



### HERMAN®











"Try to relax."









#### When radiologists take a selfie

memes.com



323 MacNelly-Dist. by King Features-SHOECOMICS.COM



### **EVERYONE IN THIS GROUP**





## LOOSE PARTS









### I told the surgeon I would like to close up my own incision by myself.

### She said, "OK, suture self."













"The real question is, where'd you get all these pictures of my mother?" Pat Byrnes June 28, 2021













You've got gall stones, kidney stones, and bladder stones... Welcome to the Stone Age.

00;

M.D

Bue a


Welcome to Plastic Surgery Addicts Anonymous.

EATLIVER.COM

I'm seeing a lot of new faces in the crowd this week, and I have to say, I'm disappointed.



Our usual colonoscopy equipment is down today, so we're going to be using a tapeworm with a GoPro strapped to its head.

Get signed Loose Parts books at ComPartsComic.com





Our next available appointment ic in Two MONTHS. Will you still be alive? Well if you sense you're not going to make it, cancel 24 hours ahead or we'll have to charge your estate.



"You'll be kept awake throughout the operation."





## "I'm your anesthetist and he's my backup man."



INTINTY

# THE BEACH....THE ONLY PLACE WHERE SALT LOWERS YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE





## "Did you see a large woman on a bike go past here?"



Removing the unmitigated gall bladder



HOSPITAL CHART BLOOPERS (Actual writings from hospital charts)

- 1. The patient refused autopsy.
- 2. The patient has no previous history of suicides.
- 3. Patient has left white blood cells at another hospital.

4. She has no rigors or shaking chills, but her husband states she was very hot in bed last night.

- 5. Patient has chest pain if she lies on her left side for over a year.
- 6. On the second day the knee was better and on the third day it disappeared.
- 7. The patient is tearful and crying constantly. She also appears to be depressed.
- 8 The patient has been depressed since she began seeing me in 1993. 9. Discharge status: Alive but without permission.
- 10. Healthy appearing decrepit 69-year old male, mentally alert but forgetful.
- 11. Patient had waffles for breakfast and anorexia for lunch.
- 12. She is numb from her toes down.
- 13. While in ER, she was examined, x-rated and sent home.
- 14. The skin was moist and dry.
- 15. Occasional, constant infrequent headaches.
- 16. Patient was alert and unresponsive.
- 17. Rectal examination revealed a normal size thyroid. (OMG! that is some examination)

18. She stated that she had been constipated for most of her life, until she got a divorce.

- 19. I saw your patient today, who is still under our car for physical therapy.
- 20. Both breasts are equal and reactive to light and accommodation.
- 21. Examination of genitalia reveals that he is circus sized.
- 22 The lab test indicated abnormal lover function.
- 23. Skin: somewhat pale but present.
- 24. The pelvic exam will be done later on the floor.
- 25. Patient has two teenage children, but no other abnormalities!!

### A COLLECTION OF MEDICAL INTERVIEW RECORDS WRITTEN BY VARIOUS PARAMEDICS, EMERGENCY ROOM RECEPTIONISTS, AND (WE ARE AFRAID) A DOCTOR OR TWO AT MAJOR HOSPITALS.

- The baby was delivered, the cord clamped and cut and handed to the pediatrician, who breathed and cried immediately.
- Exam of genitalia reveals that he was circus sized.
- The skin was moist and dry.
- Rectal exam revealed a normal size thyroid.
- The patient had waffles for breakfast and anorexia for lunch.
- She stated that she had been constipated for most of her life until 1989 when she got a divorce. Between you and me, we ought to be able to get this lady pregnant.
- The patient was in his usual state of good health until his airplane ran out of gas and crashed.
- I saw your patient today, who is still under our car for physical therapy.
- The patient lives at home with his mother, father, and pet turtle, who is presently enrolled in day care three times a week.
- Bleeding started in the rectal area and continued all the way to Los Angeles.
- Both breasts are equal and reactive to light and accommodation.
- She is numb from her toes down.
- Exam of genitalia was completely negative except for the right foot.
- While in the emergency room, she was examined, X-rated and sent home.
- The lab test indicated abnormal lover function.
- The patient was to have a bowel resection. However he took a job as a stockbroker instead. Occasional, constant, infrequent headaches.
- Coming from Detroit, this man has no children.
- Examination reveals a well-developed male lying in bed with his family in no distress.
- Patient was alert and unresponsive.
- When she fainted, her eyes rolled around the room.





"It's just a simple Rorschach ink-blot test, Mr. Bromwell, so just calm down and tell me what each one suggests to you."







"Whoa! That was a good one! Try it, Hobbs — just poke his brain right where my finger is."



## "Butcher Harris is doing this one tomorrow morning."





"You may experience irritability and pain in the hands and wrist...and that's just from trying to get the cap off."





"No doubt about it, Bob ... You're infected with tiny fighter planes. What's worse ... you're a carrier."



A medical student was so brilliant that he had several options for his specialization. He was considering specialties as diverse as neurology and urology.

His advisor gave him this advice:

"Just realize that urethra good at your internship or bladder than the others. But a good student in urology can become a pro stat!"

The student chose neurology and a new advisor.



## Do you ever feel like your body's check-engine light is on but you're still going on as if, "Nah, it'll be fine"?





- Psychiastrist Tom has a side gig at the nearby wildlife sanctuary. He treats depressed alligators.
  - He's calling it a reptile-dysfunction clinic.



## A patient insisted on closing up their own incision, so the surgeon shrugged and said, "Suture self."





## **Colonoscopy Journal**

I called my friend Andy Sable, a gastroenterologist, to make an appointment for a colonoscopy.

A few days later, in his office, Andy showed me a color diagram of the colon, a lengthy organ that appears to go all over the place, at one point passing briefly through Minneapolis.

Then Andy explained the colonoscopy procedure to me in a thorough, reassuring and patient manner.

I nodded thoughtfully, but I didn't really hear anything he said, because my brain was shrieking, "HE'S GOING TO STICK A TUBE 17,000 FEET UP YOUR BEHIND!"

I left Andy's office with some written instructions, and a prescription for a product called "MoviPrep," which comes in a box large enough to hold a microwave oven. I will discuss MoviPrep in detail later; for now suffice it to say that we must never allow it to fall into the hands of America's enemies.

I spent the next several days productively sitting around being nervous.

Then, on the day before my colonoscopy, I began my preparation. In accordance with my instructions, I didn't eat any solid food that day; all I had was chicken broth, which is basically water, only with less flavor.

Then, in the evening, I took the MoviPrep. You mix two packets of powder together in a one-liter plastic jug, then you fill it with lukewarm water. (For those unfamiliar with the metric system, a liter is about 32 gallons). Then you have to drink the whole jug. This takes about an hour, because MoviPrep tastes – and here I am being kind – like a mixture of goat spit and urinal cleanser, with just a hint of lemon..

The instructions for MoviPrep, clearly written by somebody with a great sense of humor, state that after you drink it, "a loose, watery bowel movement may result."

This is kind of like saying that after you jump off your roof, you may experience contact with the ground.

MoviPrep is a nuclear laxative. I don't want to be too graphic, here, but have you ever seen a space-shuttle launch? This is pretty much the MoviPrep experience, with you as the shuttle. There are times when you wish the commode had a seat belt. You spend several hours pretty much confined to the bathroom, spurting violently. You eliminate everything. And then, when you figure you must be totally empty, you have to drink another liter of MoviPrep, at which point, as far as I can tell, your bowels travel into the future and start eliminating food that you have not even eaten yet.

After an action-packed evening, I finally got to sleep.

The next morning my wife drove me to the clinic. I was very nervous. Not only was I worried about the procedure, but I had been experiencing occasional return bouts of MoviPrep spurtage. I was thinking, "What if I spurt on Andy?" How do you apologize to a friend for something like that? Flowers would not be enough.

At the clinic I had to sign many forms acknowledging that I understood and totally agreed with whatever the heck the forms said. Then they led me to a room full of other colonoscopy people, where I went inside a little curtained space and took off my clothes and put on one of those hospital garments designed by sadist perverts, the kind that, when you put it on, makes you feel even more naked than when you are actually naked..

Then a nurse named Eddie put a little needle in a vein in my left hand. Ordinarily I would have fainted, but Eddie was very good, and I was already lying down. Eddie also told me that some people put vodka in their MoviPrep.

At first I was ticked off that I hadn't thought of this, but then I pondered what would happen if you got yourself too tipsy to make it to the bathroom, so you were staggering around in full Fire Hose Mode. You would have no choice but to burn your house.

When everything was ready, Eddie wheeled me into the procedure room, where Andy was waiting with a nurse and an anesthesiologist. I did not see the 17,000-foot tube, but I knew Andy had it hidden around there somewhere. I was seriously nervous at this point.

Andy had me roll over on my left side, and the anesthesiologist began hooking something up to the needle in my hand.

There was music playing in the room, and I realized that the song was "Dancing Queen" by ABBA. I remarked to Andy that, of all the songs that could be playing during this particular procedure, "Dancing Queen" had to be the least appropriate.

"You want me to turn it up?" said Andy, from somewhere behind me.

"Ha," I said. And then it was time, the moment I had been dreading for more than a decade. If you are squeamish, prepare yourself, because I am going to tell you, in explicit detail, exactly what it was like.

I have no idea. Really. I slept through it. One moment, ABBA was yelling "Dancing Queen, feel the beat of the tambourine," and the next moment, I was back in the other room, waking up in a very mellow mood.

Andy was looking down at me and asking me how I felt. I felt excellent. I felt even more excellent when Andy told me that It was all over, and that my colon had passed with flying colors. I have never been prouder of an internal organ.

\* \* \*

Dave Barry is a Pulitzer Prize-winning humor columnist for the *Miami Herald*.






"We lose a little dexterity, but we gain a lot of confidence."



You're the tenth doctor who's told me I'm suffering from paranoia.

What is this, some kind of conspiracy?









My doctor asked if anyone in my family suffered from mental illness. I said, "No, we all seem to enjoy it."









"We're running a little behind, but we'd be happy to have our anesthesiologist put you under for a few hours, until the doctor is ready to see you."



The last moments of Dr. Steven Puckett, D.D.S.

Woman sitting across from man in a train compartment: "Every time you smile, I feel like inviting you to my place!"

Man, "Awwww... that's lovely. Are you single?"

Woman: "No, I'm a dentist."



"We're looking for a pediatrician who reflects our design sensibility."







"There's your problem."



"Wheat bran, prunes and black coffee for breakfast?! What was I thinki — oh, noooo..."

## Hypochondria is the only disease I haven't got.















"Kids, your mother and I have spent so much money on health insurance this year that instead of vacation we're all going to go in for elective surgery."



## "I'm sure you'll agree, we don't want an epidemic."





A patient comes to his doctor's office five days after his last visit. The doctor says, "Heavens, Mr Peebles, you look awful! What's happened?"

The patient replies, "Well, you told me to take this medicine for three days and then skip a day, but all that skipping was exhausting!"

-Prairie Home Companion



I have this fear that people are writing down everything I say taidmot







"No, it's not water. You seem to be retaining food."







"First step is the hardest. You've got to admit that you don't have a problem."


"The good news is, for the most part, you're as healthy as a horse."



Ralph finally agreed to have his hearing tested after years of complaints by his wife Brenda. After he received his new hearing aids, he commented to his buddy Sam that ever since he had received the devices, Brenda had finally started speaking clearly.



"AMAZING - YOU HAVE THE HEART OF A 375-YEAR-OLD MAN."

Helium? Will it kill the pain? No, but when you scream, it's funny.



#### FREQUENTLY-ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT HMOs

Q. What does HMO stand for?

A. This is actually a variation of the phrase, "HEY MOE." Its roots go back to a concept pioneered by Mee of the Three Stoages, who discovered that a patient could be made to forget about the pain in his foot if he was paked hard enough in the eyes.

Q. I just joined an HMO. How difficult will it be to choose the doctor?

A. Just slightly more difficult than choosing your parents. Your insurer will provide you with a back listing all the dectrons in the plan. These dactors basically fall into two categories -- those who are no longer accepting mes patients, and thase she will see you but are no longer participating in the plan. Built don't warry: the remaining dactor who is still in the plan and accepting new patients has an office just a holf-day's drive way and has a diplome fram. Third World Courty.

- Q. Do all diagnostic procedures require pre-certification?
- A. No. Only those you need.
- Q. Can I get coverage for my preexisting conditions?
- A. Certainly, as long as they don't require any treatment.
- Q. What happens if I want to try alternative forms of medicine?
- A. You'll need to find alternative forms of payment.

Q. I think I need to see a specialist, but my doctor insists he can handle my problem. Can a general practitioner really perform a heart transplant right in his office?

A. Hard to say, but considering that all you're risking is the \$15 copayment, there's no harm in giving him a shot at it.

- Q. Will health care be different in the next century?
- A. No. But if you call right now, you might get an appointment by then.

### HERMAN®

### by Jim Unger



### "Come on. I haven't got all day."

### HERMAN®



#### "Does that hurt?"





# receptionist that he was invisible.

### The doctor said

## she couldn't see

### him today.





"You may experience irritability and pain in the hands and wrist...and that's just from trying to get the cap off."



"If it doesn't itch, don't worry about it."



#### "Why did your nurse want to know my 'next-of-kin'?"



The last moments of Dr. Steven Puckett, D.D.S.







### "Which leg is it?"



"Well, Mr. Rosenburg, your lab results look pretty good—although I might suggest your testosterone level is a tad high."



AT THE MAYO CLINIC



COPYRIGHT JOHN S. PRITCHETT











"So, Mr. Fenton ... let's begin with your mother."



Not much on the supermarket shelves yesterday so I decided to improvise.

Dinner last night was a risotto I made with some mushrooms I foraged for locally.



Not only was it delicious, but soon after a Welsh male voice choir of purple elephants showed up and sang the whole of Meatloaf's Bat Out of Hell album, accompanied by a light show



### "Oh no! I've broken my nail."









"That just never gets old!"

# NEW TERMINOLOGY FOR VIAGRA

In Pharmacology, all drugs have two names, a trade name and generic name. For example, the trade name *Tylenol* has a generic name of *Acetaminophen*. *Aleve* is also called *Naproxen*. *Amoxil* is also call *Amoxicillin* and *Advil* is also called *Ibuprofen*.

The FDA has been looking for a generic name for Viagra. After careful consideration by a team of government experts, it recently announced that it has settled on the generic name of Mycoxafloppin. Also considered were Mycoxafailin, Mydixadrupin, Mydixarizin, Dixafix, and of course, Ibepokin.

Pfizer Corp. announced today that Viagra will soon be available in liquid form, and will be marketed by Pepsi Cola as a power beverage suitable for use as a mixer. It will now be possible for a man to literally pour himself a stiff one. Obviously we can no longer call this a soft drink, and it gives new meaning to the names of "cocktails", "highballs" and just a good oldfashioned "stiff drink". Pepsi will market the new concoction by the name of: MOUNT & DO.

### \* \* \*

*Thought for the day:* There is more money being spent on breast implants and Viagra today than on Alzheimer's research. This means that by 2040, there should be a large elderly population with perky boobs and huge erections and absolutely no recollection of what to do with them.

### **BOCS**





"The bad news is you have two weeks to live. The good news is I'm taking you off your greens-only diet."

© 2013 Jonny Hawkins





"Doctor, what on earth was wrong with that nun who just came running out of your office? She looked terribly pale!"

"Well," says the doctor, "I examined her and told her she was pregnant."

"Is she??"

"No, but I sure as hell cured her three-day bout of hiccups!"

-Prairie Home Companion


A man suffered a serious heart attack while shopping in a store. The store clerks called 911 when they saw him collapse to the floor. The paramedics rushed the man to the nearest hospital where he had emergency open heart bypass surgery.

He awakened from the surgery to find himself in the care of nuns at the Catholic Hospital. A nun was seated next to his bed holding a clipboard loaded with several forms, and a pen. She asked him how he was going to pay for his treatment. "Do you have health insurance?" she asked.

He replied in a raspy voice, "No health insurance."

The nun asked, "Do you have money in the bank?"

He replied, "No money in the bank."

"Do you have a relative who could help you with the payments?" asked the irritated nun.

He said, "I only have a spinster sister, and she is a nun."

The nun became agitated and announced loudly, "Nuns are not spinsters! Nuns are married to G-d."

The patient replied, "Perfect. Send the bill to my brother-in-law."





My deptist removed the wrong tooth yesterday!

He spologized and assured me that it was an aspendental mistake.





"I'd say it's your gall bladder, but if you insist on a second opinion, I'll say kidneys."







## "I get a real sharp pain when I do this."



Five members of a surgical team are debating which profession makes the best patients at the operating table on Labor Day.

"I like to see accountants on my operating table because everything inside is numbered," says the first surgeon.

The second person replies, "Yes, but you should look into electricians! Inside, everything is color coded."

"No, I really think librarians are the best; everything inside them is in alphabetical order," says the third team-member.

"You know, I like construction workers...those guys always understand when you have a few parts left over at the end, and when the job takes longer than you said it would," says the fourth surgeon.

But the fifth surgeon shut them all up when she declares, "You're all wrong. Politicians are the easiest to operate on. There's no guts, no heart, and no spine, and the head and butt are interchangeable."



"It's just a simple little operation, but we want you to pay now."







Xenophobia: fear of a villain like this one.

Xenaphobia: fear of warrior princesses.





"Enough medical mumbo jumbo, just give it to me straight, Doc-will I ever be able to play piano again?"



DRS SMITH & JONES PLASTIC SURGEONS

WE CAN HELP YOU PICK YOUR NOSE!







WWW.ANDERTOONS.COM





"He's waking up! Places, people!"



## "We had to put a steel plate in your leg."







"The problem, as I see it, is that you both are extremely adept at pushing each other's buttons." The second time Hansel and Gretel found a house made of cookies and candy, they sent someone else in to test-nibble it first.

> This technique became known as Munch Housen by Proxy.

Welcome to Plastic Surgery Addicts Anonymous.

EATLIVER.COM

I'm seeing a lot of new faces in the crowd this week, and I have to say, I'm disappointed.



When a beautiful woman enters the room, the man who watches everyone else instead of the woman is a psychologist.\*

\* or gay. Thanks to Stan S for the addition.

- Prairie Home Companion



"I'm not actually doing anything—this is just punishment for not flossing."



Having dumped the bag of ashes on the table, Stew hid behind the door and waited for the X-ray technician's reaction.





"Your previous provider refused to share your electronic medical records, but not to worry—I was able to obtain all of your information online."





"Try to relax."







"Oops! I just deleted all your files. Can you repeat everything you've ever told me?"




"Your new hip and knee replacements come with a remote control app. You can choose Tap, Waltz, Foxtrot, Cha-cha, Jifferbug, Texas Two-Step, Irish Folk Dance, and





"Before I give you your results, I'm going to put on some very sad music."

# THE RUSSIAN DOCTOR

[Told to Mich & Deborah by a Ukrainian colleague in 1983 in a heavy Russian accent.]

Doctor: Is good, is good. Patient: Vat is good, doctor? Doctor: Is good is not me

### 8

Doctor: How old are you? Patient: I vill be 42 in three weeks. Doctor: No, you won't.

### 6380

# THE RUSSIAN DOCTOR

[Told to Mich & Deborah by a Ukrainian colleague in 1983 in a heavy Russian accent.]

Doctor: Is good, is good. Patient: Vat is good, doctor? Doctor: Is good is not me

## 8

Doctor: How old are you? Patient: I vill be 42 in three weeks. Doctor: No, you won't.

### (38)



**ROBERT WALDO BRUNELLE JR 2022** 

С

WWW.MRBRUNELLE.COM



If you can't afford a doctor because you live in the USA where health care is not freely available to everyone (as it is in all other rich countries), go to an airport and pretend you are taking a flight. Go through the security screening. You'll get a free X-RAY; if you're a woman you will get a free breast exam. If you mention Al Qaeda, you'll get a free colonoscopy.





"There's no shooting, we just make you keep smoking."



"So would anyone in the group care to respond to what Clifford has just shared with us?"





Wouldn't it be nice if you read a medicine bottle that says... Warning: May cause permanent weight loss, remove wrinkles, and increase energy.



"I sure hope we can sign up for health care before we die of natural causes."



"High sodium, high cholesterol, lots of toxins - your blood test is remarkably similar to a potato chip."





BLOPER

"You can't sleep? Have you tried meditating, then reading for an hour, then going to the couch, then back to bed, then counting backward from ten million, then taking a sleeping pill?"





#### A precious case from Middle Earth

Nadia Bashir, Nadia Ahmed, Anushka Singh, Yen Zhi Tang, Maria Young, Amina Abba and Elizabeth L Sampson

*BMJ* 2004;329;1435-1436 doi:10.1136/bmj.329.7480.1435

Updated information and services can be found at: http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/329/7480/1435

These	incl	ude	
111000	11101	aac	۰.

Rapid responses	4 rapid responses have been posted to this article, which you can access for free at: http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/329/7480/1435#responses
	You can respond to this article at: http://bmj.com/cgi/eletter-submit/329/7480/1435
Email alerting service	Recei∨e free email alerts when new articles cite this article - sign up in the box at the top right comer of the article
Topic collections	Articles on similar topics can be found in the following collections <ul> <li>Other Psychiatry (662 articles)</li> </ul>

Notes

To order reprints of this article go to: http://bmj.bmjjournals.com/cgi/reprintform

#### A precious case from Middle Earth

Nadia Bashir, Nadia Ahmed, Anushka Singh, Yen Zhi Tang, Maria Young, Amina Abba, Elizabeth L Sampson

Tolkien's character Gollum is certainly disturbed, but is he physically or mentally ill? Gandalf the Wizard provides the history

Sméagol (Gollum) is a single, 587 year old, hobbit-like male of no fixed abode. He has presented with antisocial behaviour, increasing aggression, and preoccupation with the "one ring."

Sméagol comes from a wealthy and influential family, his grandmother being a wise woman in the river folk community. Nothing is known about Sméagol's birth or schooling. He was spiteful to others and had only one friend, Deagol, whom he later murdered after stealing the ring from him. For Sméagol this was an important life event; the ring enabled him to disappear and listen secretly to conversations. His family and community, appalled by his actions and believing he was a thief and murderer, banished him to a solitary life in the misty mountains. He lived for many years with the ring as his only friend and began to detest the outside world-loathing the sun, moon, and wind. He ate only live animals or raw fish. Eventually Sméagol created Gollum, the outsider, who had a more violent personality. When Gollum was 25, the ring was stolen by Bilbo Baggins.1 Since then Gollum has had obsessional thoughts and has dedicated his life to reacquiring it, sometimes with violence.

His forensic history consists of Deagol's murder and the attempted murder of Samwise Gamgee. He has no history of substance misuse, although like many young hobbits he smoked "pipe weed" in adolescence. Sméagol has forgotten many memories of his childhood, and we have limited collateral history on his premorbid personality. Before obtaining the ring he was an inquisitive child with odd interests, who enjoyed causing mischief and solitary activities such as burrowing under trees to look at roots. He dislikes himself, stale raw fish, and "hobbitses."



On general examination, Gollum is a pale, emaciated hobbit, with scanty hair and big eyes: "A skulking gangrel creature with an ill-favoured look."<sup>2</sup> He is unkempt and wearing only the remains of a loin doth. He displays animal-like behaviour, including crawling and hopping. He shows no evidence of dinical depression, although he subjectively feels sad and is anxious to be reunited with his "precious"—the ring. Objectively, he is emotionally labile and becomes jittery and nervous when discussing the ring. His speech is abnormal and he repeats phrases and noises—for example, "Yes, yes, yes" and "Gollum, gollum." In *The Hobbit* Tolkien writes of the many solitary years Gollum spent in the misty mountains: "He always spoke to himself through never having anyone else to speak to."<sup>2</sup>

There is no disorder of the form of thought. He uses neologisms such as "triksy" and "hobbitses." Gollum has nihilistic thoughts, believing that he is a murderer, liar, and thief; although there is some basis in fact for this and he shows little guilt or remorse. He is preoccupied with, and deeply desires, the ring. He has obsessive thoughts but no compulsions, though he would do anything for the ring. He is hostile towards Frodo, the current owner of the ring. He has paranoid ideation about Sauron ("the eye is always watching") and about Samwise Gamgee ("the fat hobbit ... he knows"). Gollum has difficulty controlling his thoughts and actions, exacerbated by prolonged contact with the ring. As Gandalf and Frodo have similar symptoms in the presence of the ring, we can attribute this somatic passivity to the ring. There are features of dissociation. Sméagol has separated his personality and is now Gollum as well.

He shows no evidence of any cognitive impairment. He has poor insight into his condition but he is aware of the Gollum-Sméagol dissociation.

#### Diagnosis

Several differential diagnoses need to be considered, and we should exclude organic causes for his symptoms. A space occupying lesion such as a brain tumour is unlikely as his symptoms are long standing. Gollum's diet is extremely limited, consisting only of raw fish. Vitamin B-12 deficiency may cause irritability, delusions, and paranoia. His reduced appetite and loss of hair and weight may be associated with iron deficiency anaemia. He is hypervigilant and does not seem to need much sleep. This, accompanied by his bulging eyes and weight loss, suggests hyperthyroidism. Gollum's dislike of sunlight may be due to the photosensitivity of porphyria. Attacks may be induced by starvation and accompanied by paranoid psychosis.

An internet search found over 1300 sites discussing the nature of Gollum's "mental illness." We asked 30 randomly selected medical students if they thought Gollum

Department of Mental Health Sciences, Royal Free and University College Medical School, London NW3 2PF Nadia Bashir medical student Nadia Ahmed medical student Anushka Singh medical student Yen Zhi Tang medical studen Maria Young medical student Amina Abba medical student Elizabeth L. Sampson lecturer in old age psychiatry Correspondence to: E L Sampson e.sampson@ rfc.ucl.ac.uk

BMJ 2004;329:1435-6



Gollum, from the film trilogy Lord of the Rings

#### Taking a leaf out of an old book

had a mental illness. Schizophrenia was the most common diagnosis (25 students), followed by multiple personality disorder (three). On initial consideration schizophrenia seems a reasonable diagnosis. However, in the context of the culture at the time it is unlikely. Delusions are false, unshakeable beliefs, not in keeping with the patient's culture. In Middle Earth, the power of the ring is a reality. The passivity phenomena Gollum experiences are caused by the ring, and these symptoms occur in all ring bearers. Gollum does not fulfil the ICD-10 criteria for the diagnosis of schizophrenia.<sup>3</sup>

The presence of two personalities, Gollum and Sméagol, raises the possibility of multiple personality disorder. In this diagnosis one personality is suppressed by the other and the two personalities are always unaware of each other's existence.<sup>3</sup> In this case, Gollum and Sméagol occur together, have conversations simultaneously, and are aware of each other's existence.

Gollum displays pervasive maladaptive behaviour that has been present since childhood with a persistent

disease course. His odd interests and spiteful behaviour have led to difficulty in forming friendships and have caused distress to others. He fulfils seven of the nine criteria for schizoid personality disorder (ICD F60.1), and, if we must label Gollum's problems, we believe that this is the most likely diagnosis.

We thank Peter "Treebeard" Raven for his encouragement.

Contributors and sources: NB, NA, AS, YZT, MY, and AA came up with the idea and participated in the design, analysis, interpretation of data, and writing of the article. ELS was responsible for writing the paper and revising it critically for publication and is the guarantor.

Funding: ELS is funded by the Royal Free and University College Medical School and Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust

Competing interests: We are all of short stature and have very large, hairy feet.

- Tolkien JRR. The lord of the rings. London: George Allen & Unwin, 1954-5.
- 2 Tolkien JRR. The hobbit. London: George Allen & Unwin, 1937.
- 3 World Health Organization. International statistical classification of disease and related health problems. 10th revision. Geneva: WHO, 1992.





"You have sprouts. It's something couch potatoes get after sitting for too long."



"You've got to start sometime. Why don't you operate on this one?"





# WARNING III

Patient will be charged Extra for annoying the doctor with self-diagnosis gotten off the internet



How many surgeons does it take to change a lightbulb?

None. You don't need it out today, but if it continues to give you trouble in the future, you should consider removing it. Call my office to schedule a date six months from now if you can afford the copay.

-Prairie Home Companion



## Wow, I think you went too far with the plastic surgery!









# I told the surgeon I would like to close up my own incision by myself.

# She said, "OK, suture self."













The second time Hansel and Gretel found a house made of cookies and candy, they sent someone else in to test-nibble it first.

> This technique became known as Munch Housen by Proxy.



"The real question is, where'd you get all these pictures of my mother?"



### "The results of your tests were negative. Get lost!"








### "That too tight?"













COPYRIGHT JOHN S. PRITCHETT







"Who's coping with his fear of the vacuum? Are you coping with your fear of the vacuum? Are you? Yes, you are!"



"I'll have to open you up again; that watch has great sentimental value."







# **ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTER**

# Directory

1<sup>st</sup> floor – Facebook 2<sup>nd</sup> floor – Twitter 3<sup>rd</sup> floor – Instagram Rooftop – Texting while walking







"That's great, but you still have to walk more."

### AFTER MY PROSTATE EXAM THE DOCTOR LEFT AND THE NURSE CAME IN.

### AS SHE SHUT THE DOOR SHE WHISPERED THREE WORDS NO MAN WANTS TO HEAR. "WHO WAS THAT?"

# A wise doctor once wrote ...



## **OB-GYN Kenobi**



The anesthesiologist came to ask me for my preference in anesthesia for the upcoming operation. He said he could use anesthetic gas or hit me over the head with a boat paddle.



It was an ether/oar situation.



I went to the doctor and he said I had acute appendicitis, and I said compared to whom?



Q: Does an apple a day keep the doctor away?
A: only if you aim if well enough.



"Lately all my patients are eating apples."



"The barking could be boredom, fear, separation anxiety, or just wanting attention. But most likely it's because he's a dog."





"Each capsule contains your medication, plus a treatment for each of its side effects."



"I think you'll find your patients will be calmer if you call it a checkup instead of a pre-mortem."



"Nurse, get on the internet, go to SURGERY.COM, scroll down and click on the "Are you totally lost?" icon."



"Many women are more at ease with a female doctor. That's why I'm wearing the wig."





"This is a common procedure. So to keep things interesting, I'm going to attempt it blindfolded."



"Do you have a smaller cone?"








"There were some complications. It looked way easier on YouTube."



Your x-ray showed a broken bone, but we fixed it in photoshop.

O MARK ANDERSON, WWW.ANDERTOONS.COM



"Everything looks good, just keep brushing and flossing between victims and we'll see you in six months."







C MARK ANDERSON, WWW.ANDERTOONS.COM



"I want to make sure you understand that replacing your hip is not the same as making you cool."



"I recommend hip replacement surgery for men who aren't as hip as they used to be."





"Unfortunately it's inoperable. So I'm going to whack it with a hammer."

@ MARK ANDERSON, WWW.ANDERTOONS.COM



"The other way is less invasive, but I kind of already promised the interns."



"If laughter were really the best medicine you wouldn't be in here now would you."



"The way we treat a headache here is to divert your attention to something else."



## "That too tight?"



## "If you remember, I did mention possible side-effects."



"I'll have to open you up again; that watch has great sentimental value."



"Why carry malpractice insurance if you don't malpractice once in a while?"





## The way U.S. *Medicare* is going, pretty soon all it will pay for is get-well cards.



@ MARK ANDERSON, WWW.ANDERTOONS.COM





C MARK ANDERSON, WWW.ANDERTOONS.COM



"Other than your gallbladder photobombing your liver, your CT scan looks normal."



ANDERSON

"Well, yes, we could fix it in Photoshop, but your arm would still be broken."





"Take one pill twice a day hidden in some cheese."





"I'm going to refer you to some kind of ologist."



"Our time is up. Can you be a good boy and sit up for me?" Well, I feel that I am already undead, hauling my body around this mortal realm, haunted by the souls of the damned who feed hungrily on my muscles and bones until I can be dragged once more into the pits of hell.

I'm sorry, but I do not know where that fits on the 1-to-10 pain scale!

0



Doctor: You are very sick. Patient: can I get a second opinion? Doctor: Yes, of course! You are very ugly too.

@ MARK ANDERSON, WWW.ANDERTOONS.COM



"Wait, it's September *already*?! Wow, time flies, huh? OK, then you only have *two* months to live."







## Ask your doctor if a drug with 32 pages of side-effects is bad for you.



"Just so you know we're also running a special on unnecessary surgeries."



"I agree, being able to do the splits would be neat. But I'm afraid it just doesn't justify installing your new hip backwards."


WWW.ANDERTOONS.COM



"Frankly, we're stumped. So, we'd like to try turning you off and then on again."





"I'd like to do some exploratory surgery. Not because there's anything wrong, just because I'm naturally curious."





C MARK ANDERSON, WWW.ANDERTOONS.COM



"The rejection rate for this kind of organ transplant is quite high, so we're going to cram three or four in there to better our odds."

WWW.ANDERTOONS.COM



"I'm recommending we treat this aggressively."









"The doctor will be in after you hear him chatting and laughing with the staff in the hallway for what seems like forever."