

ASSESSMENT 8



Case: F/ 26, Asian, Ms. Lee, stomach problem

Doctor: Hello, I'm Dr. Jung. I'm the doctor-on-duty for today. How may I help you?

Patient: Hello doctor. I'm Ms. Lee. I'm having stomach pain.

Doctor: Can you spot exactly where the pain is?

Patient: I think it hurts all over.

Doctor: Alright. On a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being the worst pain, which number would you rate the pain?

Patient: It's somewhere 4 to 6.

Doctor: Please describe to me how it hurts.

Patient: It's a diffuse, irregular abdominal pain doctor.

Doctor: How often does it come and when it comes, how long does it last?

Patient: It comes twice or thrice a month and it lasts about 10 minutes maximum.

Doctor: How would you describe the pain? Is it dull, sharp or shooting?

Patient: Shooting, I guess.

Doctor: Do you remember when it started? Have you experienced this kind of pain before?

Patient: No, I haven't. It just happened all of a sudden. It started maybe about 6 months ago.

Doctor: Can you remember any event that might have triggered it?

Patient: No, I can't remember anything.

Doctor: Is the pain getting worse, better or unchanged?

Patient: It's getting worse lately and I have noticed that it typically happens early in the morning.

Doctor: Is anything making it worse?

Patient: Yeah, when I eat so I take Maalox to feel better. I feel better also after emptying bowels.

Doctor: Aside from Maalox, are you taking other prescribed medicines?

Patient: No, just Maalox.

Doctor: Are you feeling something else aside from your abdominal pain?

Patient: I have occasional constipation. I'm having dark stools lately but no blood present.

Doctor: Have you passed gas?

Patient: Yes, I did.

Doctor: Have you noticed any changes in your urinary habits?

Patient: No, I haven't.

Doctor: How would you describe your appetite these days?

Patient: My appetite's fair enough, I think. I like eating "fast food" foods.

Doctor: Do you have known allergies?

Patient: None that I know of.

Doctor: Have you been hospitalized before? Undergone some surgery perhaps?

Patient: No doctor. I haven't been hospitalized ever.

Doctor: OK, I think I haven't missed out on anything. This time, I'd like to do some examinations on you. Any questions so far?

Patient: No question as of the moment. You may begin the examination doctor.

Doctor: First, I'll take a quick look on your eyes. Please open your mouth. (Look for erythema or exudate) Next, I'll check if you have swollen glands around your neck. Alright. Now I'm going to examine your belly. Would you please lie down? I'm going to listen to your belly first. Just be comfortable. Now, I'm going to press on your belly. When you feel some pain, please let me know.

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Patient: OK doctor.

Doctor: Thank you for your cooperation Ms. Lee. So far, I'm suspecting irritable bowel disease. It means that your bowel is sensitive or your stomach problem might be due to some irritation in your stomach itself or your bowel. To rule out the exact cause, I'd like to run some test on you including endoscopy.

Patient: What is that doctor?

Doctor: We will be looking inside your body particularly the digestive area. We will be using an endoscope. It is an instrument used to examine the interior of a hollow organ or cavity of the body.

I will be able to tell you the exact reason and give you the proper treatment of your condition once I have the results. In the meantime, I'm giving you some medication to ease your stomach problem.

Do you have questions?

Patient: Okay doctor. I'll have the tests. I hope you'll find out soon the exact cause of my condition. Thank you.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- Give an outline of the patient's problem.
- What is an endoscopy?
- Give 1 possible diagnosis for the situation above and explain how you came up with the diagnosis.