

## DOCTOR-PATIENT CONVERSATION

### Case: M/60 yrs. Old, Left shoulder pain

**Doctor:** Good morning Mr. Sanchez. What brought you here today?

**Patient:** Good morning doctor. My left shoulder hurts.

**Doctor:** Oh, I'm sorry to hear that. When did it start?

**Patient:** I can't remember when it started doctor.

**Doctor:** Are there any events that you think triggered your shoulder pain?

**Patient:** I couldn't think of anything doctor.

**Doctor:** Oh I see. Is it painful all the time?

**Patient:** It comes and goes doctor.

**Doctor:** Has it been worsening?

**Patient:** Yes, it has worsened now.

**Doctor:** What is the pain like? Sharp? Dull? Tingling?

**Patient:** It's sharp doctor.

**Doctor:** Does it radiate to any other parts of your body?

**Patient:** Yes doctor, the pain radiates to my neck and arm at the same side.

**Doctor:** On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 as the highest and 0 as no pain at all, how severe is the pain?

**Patient:** 8, doctor.

**Doctor:** Oh it must be really painful for you. Is there anything that makes the pain worse?

**Patient:** There's nothing that I know of that makes the pain worse.

**Doctor:** How about anything that makes it better? Like medications?

**Patient:** It doesn't improve with the medication I'm taking, but the pain lessens when I'm resting my shoulder.

**Doctor:** What medication are you taking?

**Patient:** Pain killer, doctor, Ibuprofen.

**Doctor:** Have you ever had the same pain before?

**Patient:** No, doctor.

**Doctor:** Do you have any other symptoms?

**Patient:** None, doctor.

**Doctor:** Do you have any other medical problems like high blood pressure or diabetes?

**Patient:** Yes, I have hypertension

**Doctor:** What medications are you taking for it?

**Patient:** HCTZ, doctor.

**Doctor:** Is there anybody in your family having heart problems, strokes or diabetes?

**Patient:** My father died because of diabetes.

**Doctor:** Ok. Now I'm going to ask you some personal questions that would be helpful. Do you mind?

**Patient:** Not at all, doctor. Please feel free to ask questions.

**Doctor:** Thanks. What type of work do you do?

**Patient:** I'm a factory worker.

**Doctor:** Okay. Do you drink?

**Patient:** Yes, doctor, every Saturday night.

**Doctor:** How many bottles do you drink?

**Patient:** 4-5 bottles of beer per night doctor.

**Doctor:** Okay, it's better if you cut down on your drinking habits like you drink 2-3 bottles of beer only.

**Patient:** I'll try to do that, doctor, thanks!

**Doctor:** Do you smoke?

**Patient:** No, doctor.

**Doctor:** Oh, that's good. Thank you for answering all my questions. Now, you will go through some tests for me to have a clear diagnosis of your illness. Is this OK with you?

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**Patient:** Yes, it's OK doctor. Thank you.

**Doctor:** You're welcome.

### **TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE:**

- Summarize the patient's condition.
- Can you give a possible diagnosis?
- What are some possible treatments that you could recommend to the patient?