

CASE: George Elliott

PATIENT

Name: George Elliott
Age: 37 years old
Occupation: Insurance Assessor
Family situation: Divorced, no children
Past history: 1-2 beer per day, NAD
Medications: Nil
Allergies: Nil

Brief Statement of the Situation

Appearance: In a business suit

You are a new patient at this clinic. You rarely need to see the doctor as you are usually well. You present to the doctor today because of pain in the ribs. Three days ago you were playing cricket with friends in the backyard of your home and missed a catch landing heavily on the right side of your chest. You were in quite severe pain then, and still are now. X-rays taken at the hospital were normal.

You can't understand why you are in pain and want some stronger "pain killers".

When the doctor indicates to you that your blood pressure is elevated, you inform him/her that it was high the previous time you visited a doctor. This was possibly three years ago.

Your father also had hypertension and was on tablets for many years. He died at the age of 62.

HOW TO PLAY THE ROLE:

Type A personality. Ambitious, keen to improve yourself. Not too fussed initially about the elevated blood pressure, until the doctor explains its significance. After an appropriate amount of information is shared, you are happy to see your doctor again and if necessary, have some tests.

Questions the Patient might ask

1. How high is it?
2. Could it be stress? Especially from work?
3. Do I need tablets?
4. Should I have some tests?
5. One of my friends had a stress test recently - what is that? Do I need one?