

CASE:

Margaret Thomson

PATIENT

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**Name:** Margaret Thomson  
**Age:** 40 years old  
**Occupation:** Housewife  
**Family situation:** Married. Two teenage children  
**Past history:** Appendicectomy  
**Medications:** Microlut  
**Allergies:** Nil

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### Brief Statement of the Situation

You arrive at the doctor's office looking very anxious. You are generally well and only visit the doctor occasionally for coughs and colds. You have had regular two yearly smear tests which have always been normal.

The sister at the practice rang you to ask you to come back and see the doctor as your most recent smear result was abnormal.

Your marriage is stable. You have had no extra-marital relationships, nor do you believe that your husband has.

Since the phone message you have been anxious and worried about the "abnormal result". You become calmer if the doctor recognises your concerns, answers your questions and provides you with a clear understanding of the problems.

### Questions the Patient might ask

1. Does the test mean I have cancer?
2. Is there a risk that it could develop into cancer?
3. Six months seems a long time to wait for another test. Why can't something be done sooner?
4. What happens if a further smear test shows the same changes?
5. Can I continue normal married relationship whilst waiting for the next test?
6. If I have to have treatment how would that affect my married relationship?
7. If further tests show I have cancer, can it be cured?
8. Should I continue to take the contraceptive pill?