

## DOCTOR'S VISIT #1

*Mrs. P and her daughter enter reception area.*

**NURSE**

*(calls for patient)*

Mrs. P.

*Daughter starts to go in*

**NURSE**

Just Mrs. P please

**DAUGHTER**

Excuse me. I'm her daughter. She wants me with her. She needs me with her

**NURSE**

Our policy is that only the patient comes in the examination room. I promise if we need you we'll let you know. Meantime, please make yourself comfortable.

**DAUGHTER**

But I know what's wrong with her. I can explain it better than she can. She won't tell you all the things that are wrong. I just know that.

**NURSE**

We appreciate you trying to help. But we need to have your mother tell us what's wrong.

**MRS. P**

*(sarcastically)* Thank you. I have my own tongue you know. And I'm sure they'll call you in if they feel I'm not telling them everything.

*Daughter sits down. Mrs. P. and nurse sit on other side.*

**NURSE**

**I just need a little information before you see the doctor. Let's go over your medical history.**

**MRS. P**

**Well it wasn't my idea to be here. I hate Doctors you know.**

**NURSE**

**Well I'm a nurse, so you can talk to me. The doctor will be here in a few minutes and he/she is very nice and easy to talk to. She will be able to determine just what's wrong. We only treat pain here so you may find it a little easier and friendlier to discuss your problem.**

**MRS. P**

**Maybe**

**NURSE**

**My, you have lovely earrings**

**MRS. P**

**You think so?**

**NURSE**

**Why yes. So now let's start our conversation over. How can we help you?**

**MRS. P**

**Ever since I had this tooth filled, I get these flashes/thunderbolts of pain. I told myself, it will go away. I haven't got time for the pain. Grow up. Well at my age I certainly should be grown up. Like I told my daughter ever since she was a tot, "Be brave".**

**NURSE**

**Being brave is sometimes letting others know when you need help. Maybe that's the bravest thing to do.**

**MRS. P**

**I really so don't want to be a bother.**

**NURSE**

**You are not being a bother. We are here to help you**

**MRS. P**

**I have a confession. My friend, well she said "Here are some pills that worked for me" and I tried some. But I just fell asleep. Then I went to the drug store and picked up some Tylenol, but that didn't touch the pain. And sometimes I take a sip of cognac. That helps a bit but...**

**NURSE**

**It is excellent that you are here talking to me. Every pain is different so every treatment is different. And what you are doing is what we call self medicating. That is so common, everyone tries it, but it generally doesn't work and can even get you into trouble.**

**MRS. P**

**I don't know what you mean?**

**NURSE**

**First we have to learn more about your pain. How much does it hurt? If you imagine a line going from zero, no pain to ten, "Oh I can't stand it", where would your pain be?**

**MRS. P**

**Well most of the time there is no pain at all. Then it goes to "Please someone help me". Then it stops and I hope for the best. Obviously it's pain. And it hurts.**

**NURSE**

**Let's make this a little more helpful. Take a look at this chart and let's talk about what the pain feels like. This list will make it easier for you to pick the pain that is most like yours.**

**MRS. P**

**(scans list) Here it is, "burning". That's it.**

**NURSE**

Dealing with pain is a process. Likely we will try a whole lot of things and we'll find the combination that works for you.

Here is a chart for you to fill out so we can see when the pain comes and when it goes and what is happening when it doesn't bother you and what is happening when it does. We will see you again next week and go over the chart. The doctor will decide what treatment is best for you. You know, it isn't always medications, sometimes there are other things we can try though I do think with your description of pain you may need some kind of medicine.

**MRS. P**

Are you are talking about *drugs*? You know my mother drugged herself to the grave. They say that kind of thing runs in the family.

**NURSE**

Not to worry. We'll watch out for you. Very few people get addicted when they take the medication in the correct dosage. You have taken a first step. We'll walk you through the rest. Come back next week, we'll look at your chart and we'll talk more. The doctor will be in shortly.

By the way, do you smoke? That can aggravate those nerves in the face.

**MRS. P.**

No, I don't. And I am so grateful to have someone I can talk to and doesn't think I am making up things, a complainer or just a sissy.

And I like your earrings too.

