

Medical Humor

A collection of anecdotes about good-humored misunderstandings in the doctor's office

Jayme de Oliveira Filho

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ABSTRACT

The text gathers short medical-humor anecdotes drawn from the book "Essa é Dermais" by dermatologist Jayme de Oliveira Filho, reproduced with the author's permission. The situations explore comic misunderstandings between doctor and patients: an elderly lady who forgets her own complaint about her memory, a mix-up between "gout" and a drop, a patient who literally interprets the order to remove her skirt, a father who takes "a coffee-spoonful" to mean the beverage, and a lady who confuses the secretary Susi with a doctor of the same name. This is light material, without scientific pretension, whose aim is to amuse through everyday slips of language and communication in the doctor's office.

KEYWORDS: *medical humor; doctor's office; anecdotes; doctor-patient communication; misunderstandings; dermatology*

Taken from the book "Essa é Dermais" by Prof. Dr. Jayme de Oliveira Filho, with the author's permission

Hard to Remember!

The other day, a patient already in her early 70s stopped me and remarked:

- Doctor, I have a memory problem!

And I asked right after:

- For how long?

Surprised, she asked:

- For how long, what?

The Last Straw!

I turn to the daughter of a 75-year-old lady and ask:

- But this rash on your mother is odd. Isn't she taking any medication?

The daughter answers at once:

- Yes, Doctor, she takes colchicine.

I ask anxiously:

- For gout?

- No, Doctor, in tablets.

Obedient:

A thoroughly self-conscious girl listens to the doctor:

- Well, now please take off your blouse.

A little awkwardly, she took off the garment, and after being examined she heard:

- Now the **skirt**, please.

She quickly puts her blouse back on, opens the door, and, before the doctor's baffled gaze, **walks out** of the room, just as she understood she had been asked to do.

Must Be Cough Syrup!

Speaking to the parents of the small child:

- Give a coffee-spoonful of this syrup twice a day.

The child's father chimes in, remarking with a knowing air:

- Wow, Doctor, I didn't know coffee was good for this!

Loyal to the Doctor

I say to the lady, who at the end of the appointment observes attentively:

- Schedule the follow-up with Susi! (the secretary, obviously). And she remarks indignantly:

- But isn't the follow-up with you?

- Of course it is, I answered.

- What a fright, she replies. I thought it was with Dr. Susi.

