

# Medical English

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Doctor House

Season 1, episode 1

# Presenting history of disease

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- Wilson: 29 year old female, first seizure one month ago, lost the ability to speak. Babbled like a baby. Present deterioration of mental status.
- Wilson: No wonder you're such a renowned diagnostician. You don't need to actually know anything to figure out what's wrong.
- Wilson: Protein markers for the three most prevalent brain cancers came up negative.



# Presenting history of disease

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- Wilson: No family history.
- Wilson: Other side. No environmental factors.
- Wilson: And she's not responding to radiation treatment.

# Presenting history of disease

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Foreman: Isn't **treating patients** why we became doctors?

House: No, **treating illnesses** is why we became doctors, treating patients is what makes most doctors miserable.

Foreman: So you're trying **to eliminate** the **humanity** from the **practice of medicine**.

House: If we don't talk to them they can't lie to us, and we can't lie to them.

Humanity is **overrated**.

# Making differential diagnosis

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- House: **Differential diagnosis**, people: if it's not a tumor what are the **suspects**? Why couldn't she talk?
- Chase: **Aneurysm**, **stroke**, or some other **ischemic** syndrome.
- House: **Re-draw** the **blood tests**. And **get her scheduled** for that contrast MRI **ASAP**.



# Making differential diagnosis

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- Cameron: She's having **an allergic reaction** to gadolinium. She'll **be dead** in two minutes.
- Foreman: She's not **breathing**. Epi point five.

Cameron: Come on, I can't **ventilate**.

Foreman: Too much edema, where's the **surgical airway kit**?

Chase: Yep, coming.

# Making differential diagnosis

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- House: Your doctor probably was **concerned** about the strength of the medicine, too. the **steroids...stop the inflammation**. The more often this happens...

Mother: What? “The more often this happens...”what?”

House: Forget it. If you don't trust steroids, you shouldn't trust doctors.

# Making differential diagnosis

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- Foreman: Given the latest symptoms it's clearly growing deeper into the brain stem. Soon she won't be able to walk, she'll go blind permanently, and then the respiratory center will fail.

House: How long do we have?

Foreman: If it's a tumor we're talking a month, maybe two, if it's infectious a few weeks, if it's vascular that'll probably be fastest of all, maybe a week.

House: We're gonna stop all treatment.



# Making differential diagnosis

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- House: Yeah, we're gonna watch her die. Specifically we're gonna watch how fast she's dying. You just told us, **each diagnosis has its own timeframe**. When we see how fast it's killing her we'll know what it is.

# Making a conclusion

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- House: You idiot!

Wilson: Hey...listen...

House: Not you, him! You said you didn't find anything.

Foreman: Everything I found was in [interrupted]

House: You found ham.

Foreman: So?

House: Where there's ham there's pork, where there's pork there's neurocysticercosis.

Chase: Tapeworm?! You think she's got a worm in her brain?



# Making a conclusion

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- House: OK, Mr. Neurologist. What happens when you give steroids to a person who has a tapeworm?

Foreman: They, they get a little better and then they get worse.

Wilson: Just like Rebecca Adler did.

# Making a conclusion

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House: Worm **cysts** is the same density as the cerebrospinal fluid, we're not going to see anything in her head, but Chase is right, he's right, we **should x-ray her**, but we don't x-ray her brain, we x-ray her **leg**, worms love **thigh muscle**. If she's got one in her head I guarantee you there's one in her leg.



# Prescribing medicines

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- Rebecca: What do we do now?

Chase: Now we get you better. **Albendazole**.

Rebecca: Two **pills**?

Chase: Yeah, every day for at least a month with a meal.

Rebecca: Two pills?

Chase: Yeah, **possible side effects** include **abdominal pain**, **nausea**, **headache**, **dizziness**, **fever**, and **hair loss**. We'll probably make you keep taking the pills even if you get every one of those.