

Uff Da--Why Does This Hurt, Doc?: Problem Handouts



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Part 1

Lars Johnson is a fledgling actor in L.A. California. He has just recently auditioned for a major part in a new situation comedy that is being proposed for one of the national TV networks. He has received a callback for a second audition, which means he is in serious running for the part, which would be a major career maker in Lars's career. In a discussion with his agent, Lars has learned that he received a callback for a variety of reasons, not the least of which was his acting ability. However, the fact that Lars was a stereotypic Scandinavian (blonde hair, blue eyes, slight Swedish accent) also played a large role in his call-back, in that the part Lars is being considered for is that of a bumbling immigrant that has recently moved into New York City and has hooked up with a group of other young upwardly mobile adults that enjoy taking advantage of their new friend's lack of city savvy. However, Lars's agent has some concerns about the callback as well. The casting agent has expressed a concern that Lars might be too stocky for the part, and so she suggests that Lars strive to loose a minimum of ten pounds prior to the second audition and then keep it off should Lars obtain the part.

In order to quickly lose the necessary ten pounds Lars goes on a fat-free diet supplemented by salads, vitamins, and an occasional can of Ensure. After about ten days of this diet Lars experiences abdominal pain and is somewhat concerned. The pain is somewhat colicky, and seems to be poorly localized within the epigastric region of his abdomen. Even though the pain persists for two to three days Lars is reluctant to see a physician, in that the audition is within a week and Lars does not want to take the chance of going to his physician and possibly being sent to the hospital for tests, thereby missing the audition. After discussing his concerns with his partner, Lars self-medicates with Milk of Magnesia and decides to see how the audition turns out before going to see his physician.

Question to consider:

Is this condition something Lars should be concerned about, or is his self-medication likely to alleviate the problem? If the condition is something that Lars should be concerned about, what is your preliminary diagnosis?



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Part 2

Lars is offered the role in the newly developed sitcom! However, the casting director is still concerned about Lars's weight and body build, even though he has lost nine pounds since the first audition. Lars is offered a contract to shoot the pilot, but it is contingent upon him losing three to five more pounds and then maintaining that weight through the shooting of the pilot. If the network picks up the pilot Lars's agent will attempt to renegotiate that part of the contract due to Lars's difficulty in losing weight and keeping it off.

Two days after being notified of his new contract, Lars awakens in the middle of the night experiencing constant pain. The pain is still diffuse and within epigastric region. However, Lars now notes that the pain often radiates to the right shoulder and scapular region. Within an hour of waking, Lars is experiencing significant bouts of nausea and vomiting, and feels feverish. He decides it is time to get this looked at, so he drives himself to the local E.R.

Physical Exam:

- The patient has a temperature of 100.3 deg F.
- The patient is questioned about recent travels, and Lars informs the physician that he has never been to Asia, southern Africa, or Latin America.
- Lars is puzzled as to why the physician is curious as to where he has traveled to within the past few years. Upon questioning the physician is vague in his reply, only stating that he is trying to rule out possible problems.
- HENT examination is normal.
- Blood pressure is 140/90 and the heart rate is 110.
- Palpation of the epigastric region demonstrates tenderness with guarding.
- The patient is not demonstrating any jaundice.
- Inconclusive Murphy sign.
- Lars informs the physician of the location of the pain and its tendency to radiate to the right shoulder and scapular region.

The following lab results were ordered and some of the results are noted:

- Leukocytosis with a left shift o Alanine aminotransferase (ALT) and aspartate aminotransferase (AST) levels are elevated.
- Bilirubin and alkaline phosphatase tests were ordered. Alkaline phosphatase levels are elevated but no results are available at this time for bilirubin levels.
- Amylase/lipase assays were ordered; amylase is mildly elevated.
- Urinalysis was ordered, but no results are available at this time.
- Abdominal ultrasonography was ordered, and displayed the following:
 - pericholecystic fluid
 - gallbladder wall thickening greater than 4 mm
 - negative results for gallstones
- A CT scan is ordered. The following results are noted:

- Gallbladder wall thickening greater than 3 mm
- Subserosal halo
- Pericholecystic fatty inflammation
- Pericholecystic fluid (without ascites or hypoalbuminemia)
- Mucosal sloughing
- Intramural gas

Utilizing sound anatomical logic, consider the following questions:

1. What is your diagnosis for this patient?
2. Based on the information given, what is a theory that would explain the onset of the patient's condition?
3. Provide a detailed anatomical description of the structures involved in this patient's condition, including anatomical relationships.

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Team and Self Assessment Form

Your name: _____

Please use the rating scale below to describe how you and your team members performed on each of the tasks listed associated with your PBL group's activities. The purpose of the grading is not to divide groups but to reward those making above average effort and to encourage those not giving their fair share to the group overall effort.

5 if Always 4 if Very Often 3 if Sometimes 2 if Rarely 1 if Never

PBL Group Number: _____

Please fill in PBL Group Members' *Last* Names (including your own)

Names _____

Completed assigned tasks _____

Contributed valuable
information to the group _____

Attended group meetings _____

Was honest in reporting
progress about his/her
assigned tasks _____

Participated in writing
final report _____



Now, ***please circle*** the rating below that you feel you would best describe your group's overall performance:

Very good

Good

Barely Acceptable

Poor

Very Poor



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PBL Self Evaluation Form

This evaluation form will not be utilized in assigning any grades. However, it is beneficial to reflect on any progress that you might have made in various areas as a result of participating in a PBL course. Therefore, please evaluate yourself utilizing the following scale.

Scale:

5 = Strongly agree

4 = Agree

3 = Neutral

2 = Disagree

1 = Strongly disagree

Your name: _____

As a result of my participation in PBL in Human Anatomy I feel that I have improved in the areas of:

1. Effective group participation _____

2. Effective group communication _____

3. Evaluation of myself (self evaluation) _____

4. Evaluation of others (peer evaluation) _____

5. Acquiring information to solve complex problems _____

6. Evaluation of the quality of information needed
to solve complex problems _____

7. Working effectively with others _____



8. Higher-order, critical thinking skills _____

Overall improvement rating of yourself: _____

5 = excellent; 4 = good; 3 = average; 2 = needs work; 1 = poor

