

= Give Peace a Chance ( Grey 's Anatomy ) =

" Give Peace a Chance " is the seventh episode of the sixth season of the American television medical drama Grey 's Anatomy , and the show 's 109th episode overall . Written by Peter Nowalk and directed by Chandra Wilson , the episode was originally broadcast on the American Broadcasting Company ( ABC ) in the United States on October 29 , 2009 . Grey 's Anatomy centers on a group of young doctors in training . In this episode , Dr. Derek Shepherd ( Patrick Dempsey ) performs an operation on a hospital technician 's " inoperable " tumor , despite the objections of the chief of surgery , Dr. Richard Webber ( James Pickens , Jr . ) .

The episode was designed to revolve around Dempsey 's character . Katherine Heigl ( Dr. Izzie Stevens ) was absent from the episode , as she was filming the 2010 blockbuster Life as We Know It . Mark Saul , Jesse Williams , and Nora Zehetner returned as guest stars , while Faran Tahir made his only appearance . " Give Peace a Chance " won Wilson an NAACP Image Award , and was generally well received among critics , with Tahir 's character particularly praised . The initial airing was viewed by 13 @. @ 74 million people , garnered a 5 @. @ 2 / 13 Nielsen rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic , and achieved the fourth highest viewership on the night .

= = Plot = =

" Give Peace a Chance " opens with Seattle Grace Mercy West Hospital 's chief of surgery , Dr. Richard Webber ( James Pickens , Jr . ) implementing a new computerized surgical scheduling system , which is disliked by many of the hospital 's staff . Thereafter , Isaac ( Faran Tahir ) , a hospital lab technician , brings Dr. Derek Shepherd ( Patrick Dempsey ) a scan of his tumor , which has been declared inoperable by several other physicians due to its complexity . Isaac asks Shepherd to remove it . Shepherd agrees , but Webber refuses permission for the procedure because of the high risk involved . Shepherd ignores the chief 's directions and schedules the surgery . The interns and residents all want the chance to assist due to the rarity of such a tumor , so Shepherd hosts a competition in which the winner gets to join him in the operating room . After seeing Dr. Steve Mostow ( Mark Saul ) make a mistake , Dr. Cristina Yang ( Sandra Oh ) is confident that she will win the competition , but loses to Dr. Jackson Avery ( Jesse Williams ) . Dr. Lexie Grey ( Chyler Leigh ) is not invited to compete because Shepherd wants her to be his caregiver in what would be a long surgery . Knowing that she will not be able to use the bathroom for the entire procedure , Lexie decides to wear a diaper into the operating room ; her courage and dedication impresses Yang .

Dr. Izzie Stevens ( Katherine Heigl ) is scheduled for an interleukin 2 ( IL @-@ 2 ) treatment but is absent from the hospital . Dr. Alex Karev ( Justin Chambers ) calls her , but she does not answer or come , so Karev cries to fellow resident Dr. Reed Adamson ( Nora Zehetner ) . Shepherd spends ten hours in the operating room contemplating what to do about the tumor , with the motivational support of fellow surgeons Dr. Mark Sloan ( Eric Dane ) , Dr. Miranda Bailey ( Chandra Wilson ) , and Dr. Callie Torres ( Sara Ramirez ) . Webber orders Shepherd to end the surgery because he is wasting hospital resources . Shortly thereafter , Isaac awakens to Shepherd explaining that the surgery would not have been possible without paralyzing him . Isaac convinces Shepherd to operate again in secret the next day , and the latter maps out a diagram of the surgery on his bedroom wall while discussing it with his wife Dr. Meredith Grey ( Ellen Pompeo ) , who is home on bed rest after donating part of her liver to her father in the episode " Tainted Obligation " . Backed by his fellow attendings , Shepherd obtains Webber 's permission to cut the chord but tells Avery and Lexie that they were not cutting the chord and playing by ear instead . He removes all but a tiny section of the tumor . Webber discovers that Shepherd is operating and is about to put an end to it , but Dr. Arizona Robbins ( Jessica Capshaw ) tells him to go away . Shepherd has to cut a nerve to remove the rest of the tumor , but does not know which will result in paralysis . He decides with a game of " Eeny , meeny , miny , moe " , ultimately cutting the correct nerve and eliminating the entirety of the tumor . Despite the successful surgery , Webber is enraged and verbally fires Shepherd . Shepherd dismisses this in a light tone and goes home to drink champagne with his wife .

= = Production = =

Running for 43 minutes , the episode was written by Peter Nowalk and directed by Wilson ; the latter portrays Bailey . Jenny Barak edited the music and Donald Lee Harris served as the production designer . Heigl was absent from the episode , as she was filming the romantic comedy *Life as We Know It* ( 2010 ) . The song featured in the episode was *Bat for Lashes* ' " Moon and Moon " , featured on their second album *Two Suns* . Saul , Zehetner , and Williams returned to the episode as Mostow , Adamson , and Avery , respectively , while Tahir made his first and only appearance as Isaac . The scenes in the operating room were filmed at the Prospect Studios in Los Feliz , Los Angeles ; Nowalk said the scenes were difficult to shoot , due to the technicality involved . Pompeo 's appearances in the episode were scarce , as she was eight and a half months pregnant during shooting .

According to Nowalk , the idea to have Lexie wear a diaper to get through the operation was inspired by an episode of *The Oprah Winfrey Show* . He added : " It wasn 't that big of a leap for us to go diaper . Our doctors are hardcore by nature . " Nowalk said that this episode was primarily focused around Shepherd , which he considered an " experiment " . He commented that the idea of Isaac 's storyline came from Dr. Robert Bray , a neurosurgeon in Los Angeles . Nowalk intended the nature of the episode to be " different " , attributing it to the fact that Heigl 's character was absent . He also praised Wilson for directing the episode , commenting that " she acts , she sings , and now she directs " . The majority of the episode involved Shepherd staring at his patient 's tumor , contemplating what to do . Nowalk offered his insight on this :

" It 's quieter than a typical episode . More single @-@ minded . Derek is our sole focus . And really , what an amazing character to spend an entire episode with . Watch Patrick Dempsey on your screen and you can 't help but be struck by how much he says without saying anything . The guy can pretty much give you an entire soliloquy with just one look . That 's a rare talent , and we really wanted to use that to our advantage in an episode about stillness and peace . "

= = Reception = =

" Give Peace a Chance " was originally broadcast on October 29 , 2009 in the United States on the American Broadcasting Company ( ABC ) . The episode underperformed the previous installment , " I Saw What I Saw " , in terms of viewership . It was viewed by a total of 13 @.@ 74 million people , down 1 @.@ 66 percent from the previous episode , which garnered 15 @.@ 04 million viewers . In terms of viewership , " Give Peace a Chance " ranked fourth for the night , behind game two of the 2009 World Series , and CBS 's *CSI* and *The Mentalist* . The installment did not rank high for viewership , but its 5 @.@ 2 / 13 Nielsen rating ranked second in its 9 : 00 Eastern time @-@ slot and the entire night for both the rating and share percentages of the 18 ? 49 demographic , losing to the 2009 World Series but beating *CSI* , *The Mentalist* , and *Private Practice* . Although its rating was in the top rankings for the night , it was a decrease from the previous episode , which garnered a 5 @.@ 6 / 14 rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic .

Critics were largely positive in their reviews of the episode . The Huffington Post 's Michael Pascua called " Give Peace a Chance " a " hit and miss " episode , criticizing the slang dialogue by saying it " sounded like it came from an MTV drama " , but praising the installment 's " character driven development " . Pascua was positive on the development of Tahir 's character , writing : " I hope he comes back in a later episode just to remind these people about patience and hope . " TV Fanatic 's Steve Marsi gave a positive review of the episode , saying it " won [ him ] over " , and also praising Tahir 's character . Marsi applauded the development of Dempsey 's character , calling him " the best [ doctor ] " , and noted that Wilson 's directing may " net her an Emmy nomination " .

Writing for *Entertainment Weekly* , Jennifer Armstrong had mixed feedback on the episode , writing : " The all @-@ medical , all @-@ the @-@ time episodes need to stop . " However , she found it " fantastic " when Shepherd drew on the wall , and enjoyed Tahir 's character , calling him " lovely " . Armstrong also said that " Give Peace a Chance " was in " ER territory " , adding : " I do not watch

Grey 's Anatomy to get my ER fix . " Adam Bryant of TV Guide enjoyed this episode compared to the previous one , but disliked the possible romantic development between Karev and Adamson . In his review , he concluded that the installment " proves that Meredith Grey doesn 't have to do all the heavy lifting on this show " .

People 's Carrie Bell enjoyed the episode , praising the balance of cast members . She called Isaac " beloved " , and found that the teamwork in the episode proved " there 's no ' I ' in team " . Former Star @-@ Ledger editor Alan Sepinwall gave a positive review of the entry , applauding the shift in themes and Shepherd 's character development . Writing for BuddyTV , Glenn Diaz found the episode comical , calling the scene in which Robbins stands up to Webber " hilarious " , and naming Yang the installment 's " comic relief " . Referring to Shepherd and Webber 's constant arguments , an AfterEllen senior editor said : " Seriously , these two need to drop their pants and get it over with . " Peter Nowalk 's writing of the episode was nominated for a Humanitas Prize in the 60 Minute Category . The episode also earned Wilson an NAACP Image Award under the Outstanding Directing in a Dramatic Series category .