

= The Cure (Fringe) =

" The Cure " is the sixth episode of the first season of the American science fiction drama television series Fringe . It followed two women suffering from a fictional disease , who are then given radiation drugs and exploited by a pharmaceutical company to cause nearby individuals ' brains to boil .

The episode was written by Felicia D. Henderson and Brad Caleb Kane , and directed by Bill Eagles . Executive producer Jeff Pinkner meant for the first six episodes of the first season to serve as a " prologue " , while the following episodes would get " into the next chapter " of the series .

" The Cure " first aired in the United States on October 21 , 2008 on the Fox network to an estimated 8 @. @ 91 viewers . It received mixed to negative reviews , with many critics doubting the plausibility of the science depicted in the episode .

= = Plot = =

In Milford , Massachusetts , men in Hazmat suits drop a woman (Maria Dizzia) out of a white van , who then enters a nearby diner . Suffering from memory loss , the woman becomes irritated under a cop 's questioning and causes the other patrons ' brains to boil and then explode ; she dies soon after in the same fashion .

The Fringe team consisting of Olivia Dunham (Anna Torv) , Walter Bishop (John Noble) , and Peter Bishop (Joshua Jackson) arrive , and Agent Phillip Broyles (Lance Reddick) briefs them that the woman , Emily Kramer , disappeared two weeks previously , and that her corpse exhibits three times the radiation as the other victims . Upon further investigation of her body , Walter concludes she was suffering from a rare and incurable disease , " Bellini 's lymphocemia , " but was mysteriously cured . Further tests reveal Kramer was held against her will , and given nootropic drugs intravenously that makes her brain emit a microwave burst , then set loose by her experimenters as a test .

Another woman with the same disease , Claire Williams (Marjan Neshat) , is reported missing soon after . Before her disappearance , Claire 's husband tells them she also was recently cured . Her captors are shown , commenting that " the last one was a test , this one counts " . While rifling through Emily 's house , Olivia and Peter learn Emily and Claire were friends , and that Emily 's husband also knew her despite denying it earlier . He tells them they and other victims of the disease undertook private research and discovered a cure with the help of a physician , Dr. Nadim Patel (Alok Tewari) . Before committing suicide , the doctor tells them David Esterbrook (Chris Eigeman) , the chief scientist of a competitor of Massive Dynamic , is the one responsible . Olivia confronts Esterbrook at a medical conference to discover his motivations , only to be threatened by him ; Broyles admonishes her for intimidating such a high profile individual in a public setting .

To get to the high profile Esterbrook , Peter makes a deal with Nina Sharp (Blair Brown) , who tells him where to find Claire before she can be turned into a radioactive bomb . The FBI storms the building , and Olivia is able to give Claire the cure before her head explodes . Esterbrook arrogantly tells Olivia his lawyers will spring him out of any trouble , and she publicly arrests him to ensure the press finds out , causing his company 's stock to dramatically decrease in value . After Broyles lectures her , Olivia tells him her emotions (which she had exhibited strongly all episode) make her a better agent .

In a sideplot , Olivia reveals that she shot her abusive stepfather when she was nine years old , but he survived and disappeared soon after . The strong emotions Olivia exhibited in the episode were because the events take place on her birthday , and her stepfather sends her a card every year to let her know " he 's still out there " . The final scene shows Olivia opening a birthday card from her stepfather .

= = Production = =

" The Cure " was written by co @-@ executive producer Felicia D. Henderson and co @-@

producer Brad Caleb Kane , while filmmaker Bill Eagles directed it . In an interview with the Los Angeles Times , executive producer Jeff Pinkner stated that the first six episodes of the first season were a " prologue " that ended with " The Cure , " and that the following episodes , beginning with " In Which We Meet Mr. Jones " , were " getting into the next chapter " of the series .

Pinkner also told the Los Angeles Times that " Bellini 's lymphocemia " , the disease depicted in the episode , was invented by the writers , but its characteristics are real . He elaborated " We just didn 't want to imply that individuals working on their own could cure it . We didn 't want to be irresponsible to people with the real disease " . Some critics have noted that " Bellini 's lymphocemia " may have been a reference to Italian physician and anatomist Lorenzo Bellini .

It featured one @-@ time guest appearances by actors Chris Eigeman , Maria Dizzia , Marjan Neshat , William Hill , Lisa Emery , Robert Eli , and Alok Tewari . Eigeman 's David Esterbrook 's assistant was named after Elizabeth Sarnoff , a television writer and producer . Some of her work includes Lost , another series created by J. J. Abrams .

For the opening scene , a " special kind of blood " was placed in and around the actors ' eyes to simulate their brains boiling . For the scene in which the actress is pushed up against a glass door , the special effects department created a device wearing a brown wig with an explosive charge designed to imitate the actress ' head exploding . Director Bill Eagles described the scene as " imagin [ing] an egg in your microwave spinning around and around at high voltage . What happens ? Bang ! It just explodes . "

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

On its initial broadcast on October 21 , 2008 , " The Cure " was watched by an estimated 8 @. @ 91 million viewers in the United States . It garnered a 5 @. @ 5 / 8 ratings share for all households , and was Fox 's ninth most watched show of the week .

= = = Reviews = = =

Reviews for the episode ranged from mixed to negative . TV Squad writer Jane Boursaw noted that Broyles " is surely one of the most intense guys on TV " , and also enjoyed Walter 's scenes . Josie Kafka from Open Salon thought the fringe cases each week were " an odd way to build a mythology : the Big Secret seems to be that people in positions of power are evil and do evil things , often for money . But if Peter 's right , and all these stand @-@ alones are also detailing a series of steps taken by the Big Bads in preparation for something ... well , that 's an exciting idea . " She gave it " two out of four Expendable Gerbils . " io9 's Annalee Newitz praised the episode , declaring it made her " officially a watcher of Fringe , rather than a sampler " . She continued , " It was the first time that the show really gelled ... I think Fringe hit its stride last night because it finally showed us our main characters ' true strengths ... More importantly , Fringe has finally gotten into its main groove : human experimentation . That 's what links all the scooby gang 's investigations together into the Pattern , and that 's what makes this show particularly timely in an age when people are scared of how biotechnology will change humanity . "

Further reviews tended to be negative . IGN 's Travis Fickett rated the episode 6 @. @ 0 / 10 , explaining " It 's starting to feel as if Walter 's loony logic is starting to influence the actual writing of Fringe . " Fickett criticized Walter 's science and " silly ranting [s] " , Olivia 's stepfather storyline , and believed certain lines of dialogue to be " dangerously close to self @-@ parody . " Sarah Stegall from SFScope was skeptical of the episode 's science , and explained " I really don 't want any more of this . I 'm tired of this formulaic series . I 'm tired of Anna Torv 's earnest , sad expressions ? can we get this woman to laugh once or twice ? Joshua Jackson and Kirk Acevedo are good supports and foils for Olivia , but there 's no there there when it comes to Agent Dunham . " Patrick Kevin Day from the Los Angeles Times liked the opening sequence , but was distracted from fully enjoying the

episode because he thought the science was " wonky . " The A.V. Club columnist Noel Murray graded the episode with a B , explaining he liked Chris Eigeman 's presence and the efforts at further developing the characters , but questioned the Pattern storyline , despite admitting that he does not require rational scientific explanations in science fiction . Tim Grierson of New York Magazine disliked the focus on Olivia , calling it " a long hour of television . " Referring to Olivia 's " feminist " speech to Broyles , Grierson continued , " It 's sort of cute how Fringe occasionally pretends that it 's more than just a freak show . But if they 're going to focus on a character , it should be Walter ? though we shudder to think how his flatulence will factor into the plot . "