Conversation about fever and sore throat

Patient: Good evening doctor.

Doctor: Good evening. You look pale and your voice is out of tune.

Patient: Yes doctor. I’m running a temperature and have a sore throat.

Doctor: Lemme see.

(He touches the forehead to feel the temperature.)

Doctor: You’ve moderate fever.

(He then whips out a thermometer.)

Patient: This thermometer is very different from the one you used the last time. (Unlike the earlier one which was placed below the tongue, this one snapped around one of the fingers.)

Doctor: Yes, this is a new introduction by medical equipment companies. It’s much more convenient, as it doesn’t require cleaning after every use.

Patient: That’s awesome.

Doctor: Yes it is.

(He removes the thermometer and looks at the reading.)

Doctor: Not too high – 99.8.

(He then proceeds with measuring blood pressure.)

Doctor: Your blood pressure is fine.

(He then checks the throat.)

Doctor: It looks bit scruffy. Not good.

Patient: Yes, it has been quite bad.

Doctor: Do you get sweating and shivering?

Patient: Not sweating, but I feel somewhat cold when I sit under a fan.

Doctor: OK. You’ve few symptoms of malaria. I would suggest you undergo blood test. Nothing to worry about. In most cases, the test come out to be negative. It’s just precautionary, as there have been spurt in malaria cases in the last month or so.

(He then proceeds to write the prescription.)

Doctor: I’m prescribing three medicines and a syrup. The number of dots in front of each tells you how many times in the day you’ve to take them. For example, the two dots here mean you’ve to take the medicine twice in the day, once in the morning and once after dinner.

Doctor: Do you’ve any other questions?

Patient: No, doctor. Thank you.

Conversation about headache

Patient: Doctor, I’ve headache since yesterday evening.

Doctor: Have you taken any medicine so far?

Patient: Saridon, but the headache hasn’t disappeared.

Doctor: You’ve a running nose. Looks like your headache is a result of sinus infection, and not the regular one that results from anxiety and fatigue. Lemme check.

(The doctor checks the patient thoroughly.)

Doctor: It’s quite clear that the infection in your sinus is the reason for your headache. I’ll prescribe an antibiotic to clear the infection and a pain reliever to relieve the pain.

Patient: Thank you, doctor.

Conversation about stomach ache

Patient: I’ve stomach ache and loose motions since last night. I also vomited few times in the night.

Doctor: What did you eat yesterday?

Patient: I ate some snacks on the roadside eatery. It’s likely a result of that.

Doctor: Likely you ate contaminated food. Because of diarrhea, you’ve lost plenty of body fluids. You need to be hydrated. Drink water regularly. Mix some Glucon-D powder or Electral in it. Fruit juice is fine too. Avoid caffeine, dairy products, and solid foods at least till evening. And get plenty of rest.

Patient: Any medicines, doctor.

Doctor: Yes, I’m prescribing few to control diarrhea.

Patient: Thank you, doctor.

Conversation with an oncologist on cancer

In this conversation, the patient’s family member (attendant) talks to the doctor.

Doctor: So, what brings you here?

Attendant: Doctor, my father has been diagnosed with abnormal growth of cells in colon, which doctors so far have confirmed as a case of cancer.

Doctor: What tests have you conducted?

Attendant: On the advice of doctors in Lucknow, we conducted blood tests, CT scan, and biopsy. We’ve taken three opinions on the reports and all have opined colorectal cancer. Here are the reports.

(The doctor goes through the reports.)

Doctor: Yes, this looks cancerous. What we’ll do is admit him today itself and get few tests done. And let’s meet tomorrow morning when you’ve the reports of these tests.

Attendant: OK. Thank you.

Doctor: The cancer is just one stage before it’ll spread to other parts. In this case, the best course of action is immediate surgery to remove the affected part followed by radiation therapy.

Attendant: How many days of hospitalization will be required?

Doctor: We can perform the surgery day after tomorrow. Thereafter, we’ll keep the patient under observation for 4-5 days. Radiation therapy has become pretty standardized and therefore you can get it done in any tier-2 city, which will not only be convenient to you but also reduce your expense.

Attendant: And for how long the patient will have to undergo radiation therapy?

Doctor: One dose every two weeks for three months. You need to visit the hospital only on days you receive therapy. Once radiation therapy is done, you should consult an oncologist every three months in the beginning and every year later on to check for remission of cancerous cells.

Attendant: OK. I’ve heard radiation therapy has side effects.

Doctor: Yes, radiation therapy has side effects. It can lead to hair loss, nausea, and loss of appetite.

Attendant: Thank you doctor. We’ll get him admitted today.

Conversation with an eye specialist in a hospital

This conversation involves not just the doctor, but also people conducting different tests and those at reception and billing desks in the hospital.

Support: Good morning sir. How may I help you?

Patient: Good morning. I had an appointment with the doctor at 9 AM.

Support: Have you registered with us earlier?

Patient: Yes.

Support: Please show me your registration card. Or I can search for your details through your mobile number.

Patient: That would be better. My mobile number is 989930xxx.

(She searches for the patient’s past records on her computer.)

Support: OK, I’ve found your details. You last visited us in August 2016.

Patient: That’s right.

Support: You can pay the doctor consultation fee here.

Patient: Sure. Here is my card.

(She swipes the card and hands over the invoice to the patient.)

Support: Pl take a seat, and feel free to help yourself with water, newspapers etc.

Patient: Thank you.

(After 15-odd minutes, the attendant calls the patient’s name, following which the patient proceeds to the doctor’s cabin.)

Patient: Good morning doctor.

Doctor: Good morning. How’re you doing today?

Patient: I’m fine. Thank you. How about you?

Doctor: I’m good. So what brings you here?

Patient: I’ve come for a regular checkup for a suspected case of glaucoma. I don’t have it, but few years back a doctor after examining my eye and knowing my family eye history advised me to undergo precautionary checkup once a year.

(He puts the past reports on the table. The doctor peruses them.)

Doctor: I see that your optic nerve is thicker than the normal. That’s probably the reason why you were asked to undergo precautionary tests every year. You can have the same two tests – visual field analysis and OCT – today and once you’ve the two reports, we can meet again in the afternoon.

Patient: Alright.

(The doctor scribbles the names of the two tests on his letterhead and pushes it across the table.)

Patient: Thank you, doctor.

(The patient leaves the doctor’s cabin and again approaches the reception desk.)

Patient: I saw the doctor. He has asked for these two tests.

(He pushes the prescription towards the billing lady.)

Support: OK. The two tests will cost you xxx and you’ll get the reports in around two hours. Is that fine?

Patient: That’s fine.

(He slips his card toward her. She swipes it again and hands over the invoice a second time.)

Support: Please be seated there. Someone will call you for the first test in few minutes.

Patient: Thank you.

(Over the next two hours, he undergoes the two tests and receives the reports. Thereafter, he meets the doctor again, this time with reports.)

Doctor: I hope you had a smooth experience going through those tests.

Patient: Yes, it was. And because I’ve taken these tests in the past too, I knew what was coming.

(The patient pushes the reports toward the doctor. The doctor pores through the pages, looking at the colored images of the eye minutely.)

Doctor: Your reports are absolutely fine. Since these reports haven’t shown anything suspect in so many years, I think you can now take these tests once in two years, and not once a year.

Patient: OK.

Doctor: Well, that puts glaucoma thing to rest. Does your work involve working on laptop for long hours?

Patient: Yes.

Doctor: In case your eyes get tired quickly, I would recommend xxx. It’s an eye drop, which you can use 2-3 times in the day. Our eyes get dry when we look at the computer screen without blinking for long, a common reason for tiredness in eyes. This eye drop will lubricate your eyes.

Doctor: Do you’ve any other questions?

Patient: Yes. I see few thin, black, wavy structures floating in front of my eyes and they don’t disappear even when I close my eyes. What are they? Are they harmful?

Doctor: They’re called floaters, and most persons develop them to different extent as they age. They’re not harmful.

Patient: Thank you doctor. Thanks for your time.

Doctor: You’re welcome.

Dialogue Examples 2 - Doctor & Patient

Patient's mother: Good morning, doctor.

Doctor: Good morning.

Patient's mother: My daughter hasn't been feeling well and she has a fever, can you please have a look?

Doctor: Let's see, hi sweetie, what's your name?

Dana: Dana.

Doctor: Can you please take off your jacket and lie down on the bed Dana?

Patient's mother She is a little scared.

Doctor: Don't worry, it's not going to hurt, I will just listen to you, I promise.

Dana: Alright.

Doctor: Let me listen to your back and check your throat.

Patient's mother: How is she?

Doctor: Her throat looks red, I think she has an infection. I will prescribe her some antibiotics, she should take them twice a day.

Patient's mother: How long does she need to take them?

Doctor: About a week but she can continue for another week if she doesn't feel better. She should probably rest for a few days too and not go to school.

Patient's mother: She has become very weak recently. She gets cold very easily too.

Doctor: It's probably the fever, she may have caught the infection from anyone.

Patient's mother: Can she take a shower?

Doctor: Absolutely, taking a cool shower actually help reduce the fever in a natural way.

Patient's mother: Wow, I didn't know that. When should we come back again?

Doctor: I want to see her next week, but if she gets worse, you can come and see me regardless.

Patient's mother: Thank you so much, doctor.

Doctor: You are welcome, it's my pleasure, I hope she gets well soon.

Patient's mother: Thank you again, good-bye.

Doctor: Good-bye.

Conversation between a Doctor and a Patient

MR. KAPOOR: Good morning, Dr. Sharma!

DR. SHARMA: Good morning! What’s wrong with you?

MR. KAPOOR: I have been suffering from fever since yesterday.

DR. SHARMA: Do you have any other symptoms?

MR. KAPOOR: I also feel headache and shivering.

DR. SHARMA: Let me take your temperature. At this time the fever is 102 degree. Don’t worry, there is nothing serious. I am giving you the medicine, and you will be all right in couple of days.

MR. KAPOOR: Thank you, doctor.

DR. SHARMA: But get your blood tested for malaria, and come with the report tomorrow.

MR. KAPOOR: OK doctor.

DR. SHARMA: I shall recommend at least two days rest for you.

MR. KAPOOR: Would you prepare a medical certificate for me to submit it in my office?

DR. SHARMA: Oh sure…………. This is your medical certificate.

MR. KAPOOR: Thank you very much. Please tell me how shall I take this medicine?

DR. SHARMA: This medicine is for one day only. Take this dose as soon as you reach your home and the second at 3 pm and the third at night before sleeping.

MR. KAPOOR: What should I eat doctor?

DR. SHARMA: You should eat only light food. You can take milk and fresh fruit also.

MR. KAPOOR: How much shall I pay you doctor?

DR. SHARMA: You can pay consultation fee at the reception desk.

MR. KAPOOR: Thanks doctor.

DR. SHARMA: It’s all right.

MR. KAPOOR: Thank you doctor. I shall see you tomorrow with my blood report.

**Simple Conversation with A Doctor :**  
  
  
**Doctor** : Hello! What can I do for you?   
  
  
**Patient** : Good Morning Doctor. I am not well.   
  
  
**Doctor** : Come and sit here.   
  
  
**Doctor** : Open your mouth.   
  
  
**Doctor** : How long are you not well?   
  
  
**Patient** : Since yesterday.   
  
  
**Doctor** : No problem-did you have Motion yesterday?   
  
  
**Patient** : No Doctor-not so freely.   
  
  
**Patient** : Doctor I feel giddy.   
  
  
**Patient** : I don’t feel like eating at all.   
  
  
**Doctor** : then?   
  
  
**Patient** : I feel like vomiting.   
  
  
**Doctor** : Do you take a lot of water?   
  
  
**Patient** : No, doctor I don’ take too much.   
  
  
**Doctor** : Did you take any medicine?   
  
  
**Patient** : Yes Doctor, I took Anacin.   
  
  
**Doctor** : who told you to take it?   
  
  
**Patient** : Nobody Doctor I took it myself.   
  
  
**Doctor** : why did you take it?   
  
  
**Patient** : Because I felt headache.   
  
  
**Doctor** : Nothing to be worried at.   
  
  
**Doctor** : Do you need immediate relief?   
  
  
**Patient** : No need sir. It is enough you give medicines.

Joint Pain

Patient: Good morning. Doctor Smith?

Doctor: Yes, please come in.

Patient: Thank you. My name is Doug Anders.​

Doctor: What have you come in for today Mr. Anders?

Patient: I've been having some pain in my joints, especially the knees.

Doctor: How long have you been having the pain?

Patient: I'd say it started three or four months ago. It's been getting worse recently.

Doctor: Are you having any other problems like weakness, fatigue or headaches?

Patient: Well I've certainly felt under the weather.

Doctor: Right. How much physical activity do you get? Do you play any sports?

Patient: Some. I like to play tennis about once a week. I take my dog on a walk every morning.

Doctor: OK. Let's have a look. Can you point to the area where you are having pain?

Patient: It hurts right here.

Doctor: Please stand up and put weight on your knees. Does this hurt? How about this?

Patient: Ouch!

Doctor: It seems you have some inflammation in your knees. However, there's nothing broken.

Patient: That's a relief!

Doctor: Just take some ibuprofen or aspirin and the swelling should go down. You'll feel better after that.

Patient: Thank you!

Comprehension Quiz

Choose the best answer to each question about the dialogue.

1. What seems to be Mr. Smith's problem?

Broken knees

Fatigue

Joint pain

2. Which joints are bothering him the most?

Elbow

Wrist

Knees

3. How long has he been having this problem?

three or four years

three or four months

three or four weeks

4. Which other problem does the patient mention?

He's felt under the weather.

He's been vomiting.

He doesn't mention another problem.

5. Which phrase best describes the amount of exercise the patient gets?

He works out a lot.

He gets some exercise, not a lot.

He doesn't get any exercise.

6. What's Mr. Anders problem?

He has broken his knees.

He has some swelling in his knees.

He has broken a joint.

Answers

Joint pain

Knees

Three or four months

He's felt under the weather.

He gets some exercise, not a lot.

He has some swelling in his knees.

Vocabulary Review

Fill in the gap with a word or phrase from the dialogue.

I've had a lot of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_for more than a week. I'm really tired!

Are you feeling \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_the weather today?

I'm afraid I have some \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_around my eyes. What should I do?

Could you please put your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_on your left foot?

Take some \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and stay home for two days.

Are you having any pain in your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

Answers

fatigue/weakness

under

inflammation / swelling

weight

aspirin/ibuprofen

joints

Some Troubling Symptoms

Patient: Good afternoon.

Doctor: Good afternoon. Have a seat. So, what have you come in for today?

Patient: Thank you. I'm feeling ill. I've got quite a bad cough, but I don't seem to have a fever.

Doctor: I see. How long have you had these symptoms?

Patient: Oh, I've had the cough for two weeks, but I have been feeling ill just these past few days.

Doctor: Are you having any other problems?

Patient: Well, I've got a headache. I've also had some diarrhea.

Doctor: Do you produce any phlegm when coughing?

Patient: Sometimes, but my cough is usually pretty dry.

Doctor: Do you smoke?

Patient: Yes, a few cigarettes a day. Certainly no more than a half a pack a day.

Doctor: How about allergies? Do you have any allergies?

Patient: Not that I'm aware of.

Doctor: Does your head feel stuffy?

Patient: Yes, for the past few days.

Doctor: OK. Now let's have a look. Could you please open your mouth and say 'ah'?