


# Lesson 2.2: Return to the Case of the Obstructed Respiratory System

## Overview

Read this to see how systems archetypes can illuminate a system and a problem in it.

## Fundamental or Symptomatic Solution?

Willem's doctor considers surgery to address Willem's arterial blockage. This surgery would implant a stent (a tubular support) inside the affected artery to improve blood flow and prevent further damage. However, in discussing this option with Willem, the doctor realizes that Willem is, in fact, terrified of the procedure and therefore willing to make lifestyle changes that could help his condition, quitting smoking, getting more exercise, and improving his diet. The doctor decides to try those changes first before putting Willem under the stress of surgery.

 Review the systems archetypes with this thought in mind: Which archetype best represents Willem's situation? Take a moment to think and perhaps refer to [A Pocket Guide for Using the Archetypes](#) before you respond.

## Which Archetype?

Willem's case is a shifting the burden archetype, since the application of the fundamental solution (surgery) is replaced with the application of a symptomatic solution (lifestyle changes) that does not alleviate or cure the blockage, but does make it easier to live with and less likely to develop into a more serious condition. If the lifestyle changes work, the fundamental solution of surgery may never be needed.

## Attributions and References

### Reference

Kim, D., & Lannon, C. (2018). *A pocket guide to using the archetypes*. The Systems Thinker. <https://thesystemsthinker.com/a-pocket-guide-to-using-the-archetypes/>