

CULTURAL OUTBREAK: Solution

As hinted by the flavortext and Dr. Rahlagy's name, the "patients" are all characters/people from *viral* videos and Internet memes. Each patient report clues to a different meme using medical language; their sex, race, and age range are given by the letters in parentheses. In Private Eye mode, the number of letters in each word is given; Gumshoe mode has the initial letters given instead (plus clearer references to Internet phenomena and memes in the flavortext). One word from each meme is missing; solvers should take the first letter of that missing word. This produces the phrase BAYER OR SYFY'S JANE: the answer is **PAINKILLER** (Bayer is a brand, while *Painkiller Jane* was a SyFy Channel show)

Patient (WMC) entered hospital crying and whining, while two others (WMA--parents?) filmed. Smaller patient performed mastication on larger's digit; larger patient immediately began screaming even louder, and insisted that the pain variance was extreme (C ? M F)--"Charlie BIT My Finger!" (video of two small boys in a crib; the baby promptly bites his older brother's finger, and he starts crying as he explains what happened)

Patient (WMA) rushed into hospital bloodied and injured, insisting an attempt had been made on his life. Upon calming down, claimed that a celebrity truly attempted to consume his flesh; said celebrity was recognized by staff for noted work in motivational speeches, though autobiographical information indicates he is unremarkable. (? C S L)-- "ACTUAL Cannibal Shia LaBeouf" (Bizarre song about actor LaBeouf being a crazed cannibalistic killer; "motivational speeches" refers to LaBeouf's JUST DO IT! Video, while "unremarkable" hints at his performance art piece where he wore a paper bag reading "I'm Not Famous")

Patient (WMC) was first heard outside hospital singing extraordinarily loudly; despite European nature of song, ID later confirmed he was from a Midwestern state. Patient then entered (having apparently come from local big-box store) and continued singing, drawing popular attention from media. (? W B)--"YODELING Walmart Boy" (the story of Mason Ramsey, an Illinois-born boy who yodeled in a Walmart and gained the media's eye)

Patient (WMA) stormed into lobby (apparently from right wing of the hospital) and began shrieking regarding various political theories. Patient then seized hold of bubbler and began clawing at the piping, claiming that fluid treatment would alter

sexualities of certain animals. Upon being asked to calm himself, patient claimed his efforts were a form of art. (I D L ? P C I T W T T T F' F G!)-- "I don't like 'EM puttin' chemicals in the water to turn the friggin' frogs gay!" (A quote from Alex Jones, *right-wing* conspiracy theorist and host of *InfoWars*; in this rant, he claimed that fluoroide treatment would make frogs gay. The "form of art" remarks refer to Jones infamously claiming that his rants were "performance art," and not sincerely held beliefs, during a trial).

Patient (WFA), after presenting ID from Northern state, claimed to possess a form of magnoscopic vision, enabling her to observe a location thousands of miles away. Patient bore remarkable resemblance to noted political figure--or perhaps this was said political figure, who resembles patient? (I C S ? F M H!)-- "I Can See RUSSIA from my house!" (Tina Fey's infamous imitation of Sarah Palin during the 2008 election)

Four patients (all WMA) with visible prostheses on faces snuck into lobby dressed identically. Patients, after offering teachings on chicanery, proceeded to cut to the front of the check-in line, repeatedly singing it is where they belonged (W A N ?)-- "We Are Number ONE!" (a song from *Lazytown*, sung by villain Robbie Rotten and three men he hires to imitate him; they all wear the same costume and have fake chins, and the song opens with "Here's a little lesson in trickery," explaining "teachings in chicanery")

Overwhelmed, I exited the hospital for fresh air--only to discover new patient (WMA) standing on lawn, staring into the sky. Following his gaze, I discovered a rare meteorological phenomenon occurring. Patient (apparently under the influence of cannabis) promptly turned to me and posed philosophical riddle; I promptly sighed "I don't know." (D ?)--"Double RAINBOW" (a video in which a man, clearly high as a kite, notices a double rainbow in the sky-- "rare meteorological phenomenon"; he then starts crying in joy and asking the "philosophical riddle" "WHAT DOES IT MEEEEAAAAAN?")

Emaciated patient (MA--W?) with disturbing skin coloration (possible reaction to cheap jewelry?) entered; wide red eyes, lack of other sensory organs, ethereal tone, and communication with miniature puppets suggest severe mental illness. Remained dissociated until passing cafeteria employee appeared, at which point patient grabbed at old metal cutlery and began running

digits along them in a sensual manner. (? F)-- "SALAD Fingers" (a disturbing Flash animation about a green-skinned, emaciated figure with schizophrenia and no nose and ears ("lack of other sensory organs"; he talks to "miniature puppets" throughout and famously "likes rusty spoons," which explains his interest in the "old metal cutlery" from the cafeteria.

Patient (WMA) entered lobby on wheels, hunched over and disguised as someone else. Upon a nurse approaching, patient proceeded to stand and remove disguise; patient then began singing loudly about personal perseverance and integrity (R--"N G G ? U")-- "Rickrolling--Never Gonna Give YOU Up" (the ever popular art of tricking someone into watching a video, only for it to become Rick Astley's "Never Gonna Give You Up". Remember when this was a thing?)

Patient (WFT), apparently suffering from severe temporal lobe damage, entered hospital and began demanding breakfast items, then pointing out passing hours. Patient then started shouting the incorrect date, all while endlessly pacing in front of lobby chairs mumbling to herself about stealing one in particular. (?, by R B)-- "FRIDAY" (Rebecca Black's infamous 2010 hit; the "breakfast items" refer to "gotta have my bowl, gotta have cereal," while her pacing the chairs suggests the line "Which seat can I take?")

Patients (WMA) entered hospital fighting loudly; after being separated, began to shout their names (Greek?) simultaneously. Staff promptly engaged in intense argument as to what, precisely, was being said; consensus seemed unreachable. (? O L)--"YANNY or Laurel?" (a sound clip wherein a voice sounds like it is saying either name--but it's not clear *which*; fierce debate emerged over what was being said)

Patient (EAMA), who provided initials for name, entered hospital in thick dark glasses and formal wear, singing largely in foreign language (though words peppered throughout were English). Upon reaching certain points in his singing, patient crossed limbs and began dancing wildly, then shouted bizarre, location-specific phrase. Amazingly, countless others in hospital rushed to watch. (G ?)-- "Gangnam STYLE" (Korean singer PSY's biggest hit about the Korea location Gangnam, the song is largely sung in his native language but includes English words-- "Heeeeey, sexy lady!"; the music video, which "countless" people

watched, has PSY in dark shades and a suit jacket performing the famous Gangnam Style dance.

Patients (largely WMAs) came into hospital carrying various weaponry and discussing meticulous plan to perform invasive action on a group of monsters. Final patient (WMA) then entered (having apparently been separated) and, without warning, rushed into the hallways of the hospital, all while shouting his loudly; exasperated remaining patients followed, only to perish. (L ?)-- "Leeroy JEEENNNKIIIIINS!" (infamous--and staged--video of a *World of Warcraft* raid being spoiled when Leeroy, who was Away from Keyboard during the planning, rushes into battle while crying his name.

Patient (BFA), who entered hospital barefoot, refused to be treated for possible burns and soot inhalation, expressing interest in iced soft drinks instead (this despite clearly suffering from lung inflammation). When presented with tests or forms, patient repeatedly declared that she, and people in general, lack the capacity for these things. (? N G T F T)-- "AIN'T Nobody Got Time for That!" (interview with Kimberly "Sweet Brown" Wilkins about her escape from a fire; the "soft drinks" are "cold pop," "lung inflammation" is "bronchitis," and "barefoot" is "I didn't grab no shoes or nothin', Jesus!", all phrases from the video)

Patient (WMA), well-muscled, entered lobby and began doing push-ups, claiming that his efforts were actually shoving the planet away from his body. Patient proceeded to make similarly outlandish claims, ranging from the unlikely (renaming archipelago in the Caribbean) to the impossible (forcibly shutting a rotating entryway). (C ? F)-- "Chuck NORRIS Facts" (one of the earliest on the list, a reference to the various bizarre statements about action star Chuck Norris: the three refer to "Chuck Norris does push-ups," "Chuck Norris visits the Virgin Islands," and "Chuck Norris slams a revolving door")

Final case of the day--massive array of patients (WEA, WMA, BFA, BMA, etc.) rushed lobby in pairs, engaged in intense rhyming debate. Patients ranged from historical figures (presidents, inventors, etc.) to cartoon characters (turtles?). Given the nature of their attacks, I immediately sent all to the burn ward. (? R B O H)--"EPIC Rap Battles of History" (a popular YouTube series in which individuals from across time and space, including scientists, presidents, musicians, and even the

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, perform "rhyming debate", or rap battles, with each other. Dr. Violet gets in on the jokes when she sends everyone to the "burn" ward--everyone knows that a good insult is a BURN! Wokka wokka!)