

Difficult Conversation 3 – Notes for Candidate

Difficult Conversation: 10 minutes

You are an FY1 working in the GP.

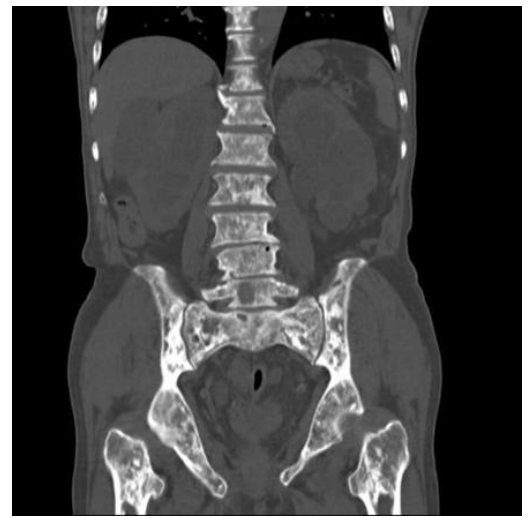
Your patient is John Hyper who has known prostate cancer.

He was improving until recently when his symptoms worsened. Please review the information provided and appropriately communicate the new development in his cancer to him.



PRIOR DOCUMENTATION AND TEST RESULTS:

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL
ONCOLOGY CLINIC LETTER RE JOHN HYPER
18/02/2024



Dear Dr Student,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to provide an update regarding your patient, Mr. John Hyper, whom you referred to our oncology clinic for further evaluation and management of prostate cancer.

Upon evaluation and subsequent scans, it is with regret that I inform you that the results have confirmed the presence of bone metastases in Mr. Hyper. This is indeed a challenging diagnosis, and our team has carefully reviewed the findings to determine the most appropriate course of action.

Given the extent of metastatic spread and in consideration of Mr. Hyper's overall health status, we have recommended initiating palliative care. Our primary aim at this stage is to focus on alleviating symptoms, maintaining his quality of life, and providing him with the necessary support and comfort throughout his journey.

We understand that this news may be difficult to digest, both for Mr. Hyper and for you as his physician. Please know that our team is here to support you in any way we can, whether through ongoing communication, collaboration in managing symptoms, or assistance with end-of-life care planning.

We recommend scheduling a follow-up appointment with Mr. Hyper to discuss the palliative care plan in detail, address any questions or concerns he may have, and ensure that he receives the necessary support from our multidisciplinary team.

Should you have any questions or require further information regarding Mr. Hyper's case, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly. We value our collaboration with you and are committed to ensuring the continuity of care for your patients.

Thank you for entrusting Mr. Hyper's care to us, and we look forward to working together to support him during this challenging time.

Warm regards,

***Professor R. Holland,
Consultant Oncologist***

Difficult Conversation 3 – Notes for Actor

You are John Hyper, a 65-year-old man who has been battling prostate cancer for some time now. You have undergone various treatments, including surgery and chemotherapy, in hopes of beating the cancer. You are here today to receive an update on your condition, unaware of any recent developments.

You are feeling anxious about the appointment, hoping for positive news but prepared for whatever the doctor has to say.

You trust your medical team and value their expertise, but you are also apprehensive about hearing potentially difficult news. You are eager to know the status of your cancer and what the next steps in your treatment plan may be.

Upon hearing the news of your bone metastasis, you experience a range of emotions, including shock, disbelief, fear, and sadness. You may have questions about what this means for your prognosis, treatment options, and overall quality of life.

You rely on your healthcare providers to guide you through this challenging time and provide you with the support and care you need. You are open to discussing your concerns and preferences regarding your care, but you also appreciate honesty and transparency from your doctors.

Difficult Conversation 3 – Examiner marksheet

MARKING RUBRIC	✓
<p>Opening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduces themselves. • Confirms Patient demographics. • Explains and gains consent from patient about consultation. 	
<p>Main Consultation:</p> <p>Approach the conversation with empathy and sensitivity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the recent development of bone metastasis from prostate cancer FOLLWING SPIKES • Provide clear information about the diagnosis, including what bone metastasis means and how it affects prognosis and treatment options. • Discuss potential treatment options, including palliative care, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and hormone therapy, while also emphasizing the importance of symptom management and supportive care services. • Offer information about support services available, such as counselling, support groups, and palliative care teams, to address emotional, psychological, and practical needs. • Provide guidance on symptom management strategies for managing pain, fatigue, and other symptoms associated with bone metastasis, including medication management and complementary therapies. • Encourage the patient and their family to ask questions and express concerns, ensuring they feel heard and supported throughout the discussion. • Use a patient-centered approach, tailoring the discussion to the patient's needs and preferences. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to verbal and non-verbal cues with empathy and compassion. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use patient entered approach • Respond to verbal and non-verbal cues • Talk to the relative with sensitivity, compassion and empathy 	
<p>Ending consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • end consultation by thanking the daughter and asking if they have any further concerns. 	

Global Impression:

- Excellent
- Good
- Pass
- Borderline
- Fail

Patient Impression/comments: