

01:14:00 **MARIA V.:** I feel bad.

DR. GREENE: Uh huh.

MARIA V.: And I get, like, dizzy and I start feeling heart palpitations.

DR. GREENE: Uh huh.

MARIA V.: And that scares me, because I don't know what it is, And a lot of pain in my bones. From top to bottom, I feel pain in my bones, especially my spine, from here in the back of my brain downwards, it hurts, and I'm afraid I'll get dizzy.

DR. GREENE: Uh huh.

01:14:25 **MARIA V.:** I feel totally like a stranger. Like I don't know what I'm doing.

I don't know if I'm awake or asleep. I don't know.

DR. GREENE: It's hard feeling like that.

MARIA V.: Yes, very. I feel pretty bad, and also, I suffer from depression. But the depression seems to get worse because I don't know what I have, what it might be that's bothering me.

DR. GREENE: And are you thinking something bad, that you've got something bad?

MARIA V.: Well, I think about a lot of things.

01:14:59 You know, cancer; something like, well -- , [????] You know the thing called mad cow disease. [????] That's what I think about. [????] I sometimes wonder if it could be something like mad cow. [????] And there are so many other things out there. [????]

DR. GREENE: So you want to know what you have.

MARIA V.: Exactly.

DR. GREENE: Uh huh.

MARIA V.: I'm worried, and it's often happened that I lose my memory, because also, my father suffered from Alzheimer's.

DR. GREENE: Uh huh.

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MARIA V.: his whole family has suffered from that illness. And that also worries me.

01:15:42 DR. GREENE: And you're afraid you may have Alzheimer's, especially when you lose your memory.

MARIA V.: Yes. I've told my therapist, my psychiatrist. I've told her about that illness that my father suffered from.

DR. GREENE: Uh huh. I have a few more questions about what's been happening these last two weeks. Do you have a fever?

MARIA V.: No.

DR. GREENE: And chills?

MARIA V.: No, not at all.

DR. GREENE: And the nausea started yesterday, or--?

MARIA V.: Today, in the morning I felt a bit nauseous. Not too much.

DR. GREENE: But no vomiting--.

MARIA V.: No.

DR. GREENE: And you have no rash on your body?

MARIA V.: Well, yes. I've been feeling that for a while, that I feel like I'm being stabbed with a knife in my legs. And I feel like little bugs are walking all over my body, including my head, and sometimes I scratch, and that makes me feel bad. I feel embarrassed because people may think that--

DR. GREENE: That started two weeks ago, or--?

MARIA V.: No, no. I've had that for a long time. I told my doctor, and he hasn't done anything about this problem. He hasn't told me anything.

01:16:53 DR. GREENE: Uh huh. And what medical problem do you have? Has he told you that you have depression?

MARIA V.: Well, I have depression.

DR. GREENE: [???

MARIA V.: I have thyroid trouble. High cholesterol, and my bones.

DR. GREENE: Uh huh. Osteoporosis? You've got that?

MARIA V.: Yeah. And also, what's it called, arthritis.

01:17:11 DR. GREENE: Arthritis. And where do you have arthritis?

MARIA V.: Well, basically my legs. My legs and my hands. Right now this finger --- do you see how this finger is?

DR. GREENE: Uh huh.

MARIA V.: I have to hold it like this, because it hurts me.

DR. GREENE: That's not arthritis, and you can cure it.

MARIA V.: You know what I think it is? I was with my little dog. I have a dog that I got to help me, to lift my spirits, and I exercise with him every day in the park, and when I pulled his leash, right? It pulled my finger.

DR. GREENE: That's called a trigger finger. Do you know what a trigger is?

MARIA V.: No.

DR. GREENE: Like in a gun, there's a trigger.

MARIA V.: Yes.

DR. GREENE: The finger is caught, the tendon in the finger is caught there.

We can give you an injection there to help that.

MARIA V.: Okay, very good.

DR. GREENE: But we can talk more about that a bit later.

01:18:07 **DR. GREENE:** And what medication are you taking?

MARIA V.: Well, can I show you?

DR. GREENE: Yes, please.

MARIA V.: Yes, of course. I'm always prepared.

DR. GREENE: Yes, very good. Some of my patients never know what they're taking and they never bring it.

MARIA V.: Now, I take some medicine for my stomach, but I don't think that one's important, is it?

DR. GREENE: Okay, do you know what it is?

MARIA V.: Oh, I forgot the name.

DR. GREENE: Prilosec?

01:18:31 **MARIA V.:** No, I'm taking something else. The doctor gave me a lot. This one I'm taking for the pain in my leg, because I just saw my foot doctor, because I had surgery on this bone, what's it called--

DR. GREENE: I don't know what it's called in Spanish. [????]

MARIA V.: And after the surgery I started having such very strong pain in my leg that I was feeling depressed all day yesterday, and the doctor says it's a nerve that's --

DR. GREENE: Pinched?

MARIA V.: No. What's it called, not pinched. Very atrophied. [????]

DR. GREENE: Uh huh.

MARIA V.: And he gave me the medicine.

01:19:12 DR. GREENE: Okay. Which medicine? Do you remember? [????]

MARIA V.: Yes, of course. I have it here. He just gave it to me.

DR. GREENE: You certainly are well prepared.

[????]

[????]

DR. GREENE: And do you have allergies?

MARIA V.: No, no.

DR. GREENE: Okay. You can have this back.

MARIA V.: Okay. Good.

DR. GREENE: Are you allergic to any medication that you know of?

MARIA V.: No.

01:19:52 DR. GREENE: Okay. And besides your foot, have you had any other surgeries?

MARIA V.: Yes... on my gall bladder.

DR. GREENE: Uh huh.

MARIA V.: And on my veins.

DR. GREENE: Uh huh.

MARIA V.: And another time I had implants in my breasts.

DR. GREENE: Uh huh.

MARIA V.: And they were removed. And then also cosmetic surgeries.

01:20:20 DR. GREENE: Uh huh. Okay. What other type of cosmetic surgery? Your breasts and what else?

MARIA V.: On my face here.

DR. GREENE: Your face.

MARIA V.: Uh huh.

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DR. GREENE: And besides the other symptoms, do you have headaches?

MARIA V.: Well, I feel like--

DR. GREENE: Like pressure?

MARIA V.: No, like air, something like that. I'm like numb. Like air inside the head. That's what I feel. And that's what makes me lose my memory right then. I don't know what I'm doing.

01:20:52 DR. GREENE: And that comes with a feeling of dizziness?

MARIA V.: No, not exactly. But it's a slight dizziness.

DR. GREENE: Do you feel you're going to faint?

MARIA V.: Like my head goes like this back and forth. [?????]

DR. GREENE: And do you feel like you're going to faint?

MARIA V.: I feel that, yes, like I'm going to fall. Last night I was like that. I thought I was going to fall, and I had to call my husband because we sleep in separate beds, because I'm more comfortable sleeping alone.

DR. GREENE: Uh huh.

MARIA V.: So I called to him, "I think I'm going to die." I get scared. I'm not scared to die, but I'm scared of being in a coma or something happening to me. That's my fear.

DR. GREENE: And do you feel anxious when you're alone?

01:21:36 **MARIA V.:** Um... When I'm sick. But when I'm feeling well I feel better being alone.

DR. GREENE: And how many glasses of water do you drink every day?

MARIA V.: I drink a lot of water because of the medicine. What I do that's bad is, I drink a lot of soda.

DR. GREENE: Uh huh. What type of soda? Diet or regular?

MARIA V.: Regular. I don't like diet.

DR. GREENE: Yes, it has that taste.

Um, and are you eating right these last two weeks?

01:22:03 **MARIA V.:** Yes, I'm eating well. I am.

DR. GREENE: Regularly?

MARIA V.: Yes, if I'm very hungry. But I eat before 5:00 PM, after that I eat nothing. I clean my teeth, I bathe, and I don't eat anything else, except maybe a piece of fruit.

DR. GREENE: Uh huh. And you're taking the thyroid medicine regularly?

MARIA V.: Yes, of course.

DR. GREENE: So we don't suspect that you stopped or changed the medicine for your thyroid.

MARIA V.: No. But since I'm not a doctor, I was scared that maybe it could be that. [???

DR. GREENE: Uh huh. It's possible. We'll do some blood tests to check--

MARIA V.: Actually I was going to come yesterday for a blood test, but since I made the doctor's appointment for the end of the month, it's too early to have blood drawn.

DR. GREENE: Uh huh, uh huh. Okay. Well, I want to check your blood to see how the blood cells are, your sugar level and also your thyroid, how that's doing.

MARIA V.: Okay.

DR. GREENE: We'll check those things. And today, with the nausea, you're still eating well, still have a good appetite, or no?

MARIA V.: Yes, I have a good appetite, yes. I haven't lost my appetite at all.

01:23:06 DR. GREENE: Very good. And do you have that dizziness or not?

MARIA V.: No. Now what I'm feeling in my head is heaviness.

DR. GREENE: Uh huh.

MARIA V.: Like if I had air inside.

When I go like this, it's controlled. [?????]

01:23:21 **DR. GREENE:** Okay. And when did you have your last mammogram?

MARIA V.: Um, I believe it was two years ago.

DR. GREENE: Okay.

MARIA V.: Because I'm scared of mammograms.

DR. GREENE: Why? Because it hurts?

MARIA V.: Yes, a little. No, it's that every time I have s mammogram, it gives me a lot of pain.

DR. GREENE: Uh huh.

MARIA V.: And that pain lasts for a long time.

DR. GREENE: Uh huh.

MARIA V.: So now what I did is, I stopped for a while so I can rest.

01:23:48 **DR. GREENE:** And the last pap test? When was that?

MARIA V.: Also around the same time.

DR. GREENE: Also around two years ago?

MARIA V.: Yes. Yes.

DR. GREENE: Okay. And have you had a colonoscopy? Do you know what that is?

MARIA V.: Yes, I did have one, but I'd like to have it again because I suffer a lot from constipation, which doesn't let me to go to the bathroom regularly. I go every three days.

DR. GREENE: Uh huh. And what are you taking-- ?

MARIA V.: I have to constantly be taking a lot of things, laxatives and things, so I can go to the bathroom. Because that depresses me a lot, and I feel a lot of pain in my legs.

DR. GREENE: Uh huh.

MARIA V.: When I clean myself I feel a little relief in my legs, because I have problems with my legs.

01:24:27 DR. GREENE: And if I were able to stop just one of the symptoms that you're having, which is the worst one you're having?

MARIA V.: The worst? Not going to the bathroom.

DR. GREENE: Constipation?

MARIA V.: Yes. That bothers me a lot.

01:24:39 DR. GREENE: Okay. So what I want to do now is, we're going to do an exam to check some things. I want to check the nerves in your head, I want to check your thyroid with a test, I want to listen to your heart and all that. And--

MARIA V.: I'd like that. I've been waiting for some doctor to tell me the truth, because I'm a person who doesn't like to complain a lot, but I suffer, all alone, from a lot of things. I feel very bad.

DR. GREENE: Yes, you do have a lot of things.

MARIA V.: Yes, but my doctor, I don't know, he keeps giving me pills, pills, pills, and never sends me to a specialist. I, on my own, I have a doctor, the one who just called. A heart doctor, because I want to know if my, how -- [????]

DR. GREENE: How your heart is.

MARIA V.: My doctor has never sent me to see a heart specialist.

01:25:27 **DR. GREENE:** Sometimes -- It's important to know that he can do various things to check your heart, but he has to talk to you about what he's doing.

MARIA V.: But that's what I'm asking! And he hasn't told me anything.

DR. GREENE: Uh huh. Okay, so let's start with the exam and let's draw some blood. If there's something horrible in your blood I'll call you, but if not you can continue with your primary doctor in three weeks. And -- one more thing I was going to say... And I'm going to give you something for constipation now. Keep on drinking a lot of water, because that feeling you're having in your head, that can come from not having enough water in your body. But I can also give you something for your constipation today.

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01:26:11 **DR. RICHARD GREENE:** OK. So let's do the exam...And do you have any questions about the plan?

MARIA V.: Hmm... The plan? What you've been telling me?

01:26:20 **DR. RICHARD GREENE:** Yes. About what we'll do. We'll do the exam, check the blood to make sure there's nothing bad going on, and afterwards you can continue with your primary doctor, or we'll call you if there's anything unclear on the lab results.

MARIA V.: All right, I'll wait for the results.

1:42:50 **DR. RICHARD GREENE:** Perfect.

MARIA V.:I hope there'll be nothing bad, but...

DR. RICHARD GREENE: Yes. I suspect we'll find nothing bad,

[**MARIA V.:** God willing.]

01:26:42 DR. RICHARD GREENE: but if the thyroid needs further medication or something, we can change that.

MARIA V.: Very good.