

THE BEST MEDICINE

Rectal examinations are always done with courtesy, tact and in a professional manner. Despite these good intentions, they can be a source of some unexpected amusement.

One day, while working in the emergency department, I attended to a five-year-old boy who had been troubled with some symptoms suggestive of an intermittent bowel obstruction. The history and abdominal examination had been unrewarding and I naturally felt that a rectal exam was required.

His face showed an understandable mixture of surprise, suspicion and disgust as I explained the procedure to him and his parents. If he had been a few years older, I'm sure he would have been thinking: "You've got a nice job — not!"

The potential source of the problem was soon to be revealed when, before he rolled over to submit to the exam, he beckoned me closer and, with a conspiratorial tone, whispered: "If you find a quarter in there — it's mine." **Dx**



"Looks like you have bum knees!"

Have you ever been in a funny medical-related situation that you'd like to share with your peers? Send us your 150- to 200-word contribution so we can share your laughs. Published authors will receive a \$75 honorarium.

This item was sent in by Dr. Bryan Caddy, Red Deer, Alberta.