


The Best Medicine

There was a patient who presented to our emergency department with a supraventricular tachycardia (SVT). She was under the care of my colleague in the emergency department.

Luckily, she converted back to normal sinus rhythm with the help of medication. My colleague was keen to teach her the Valsalva maneuver, a technique which may help her in the event she goes into SVT again.

As he was trying to exert intra-abdominal pressure by bearing down with the mouth closed he passed a large bolus of flatus!

The sound was unmistakable and everyone burst into laughter, including the patient! Fortunately, the ventilation in the department was working thereby avoiding a potential iatrogenic syncope secondary to noxious stimuli! 



The BIG problem with this prescription is how to push down, turn counterclockwise and lift the cap.

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 by Dr. Ambrose Lee, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.