

# The Best Medicine

## 'Till Deaf Do Us Part

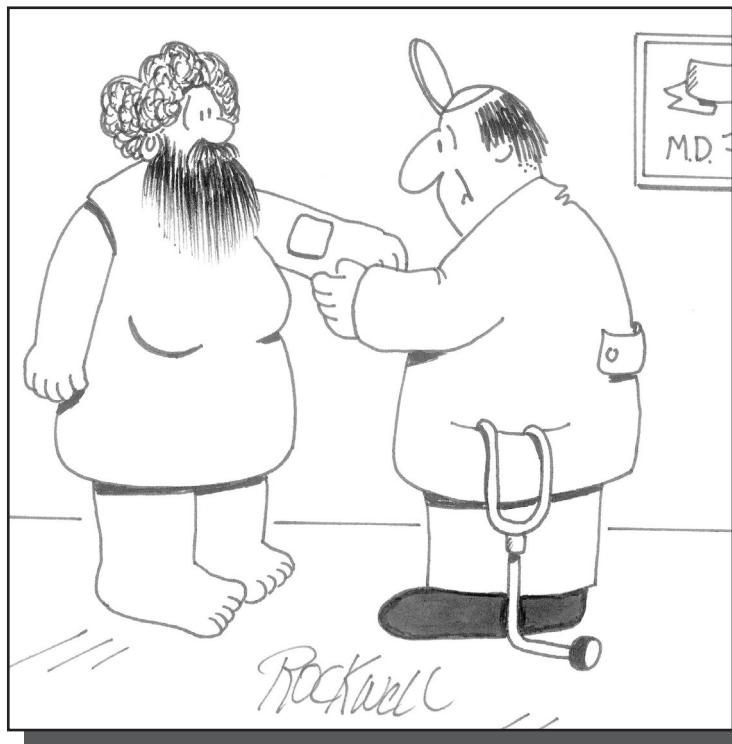
Unhappy marriages are, unfortunately, frequent. An unusual twist is a simple “medical” problem causing the disorder, especially one that can be fixed in several minutes.

A male patient was in my office asking if he and his wife could come in for counselling. There were no major issues, they just seemed to argue from the minute he got home after work.

He described a situation in which he would be reading the newspaper and an argument would ensue. As the history was elicited, the patient constantly asked me to repeat my questions. It seemed as though he couldn't hear me. On a lark, I checked his ears and they were completely blocked with cerumen. I syringed out his ears (we all hate doing it) and theorized that the arguments might be starting due to him sitting reading, his wife talking to him, him not hearing her, her thinking he was ignoring her, and voila!—an argument.

I asked him to return in two weeks to review the situation and arrange marriage counselling, if necessary. He and his wife returned to tell me how successful my intervention was—no more arguing.

All marriage counselling should be so successful. D



*“Well, no wonder! This isn't a nicotine patch. It's a testosterone patch!”*

This item was sent in by **Dr. Mark Goodbaum**, Thornhill, Ontario.

*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 specialty mug from The Canadian Journal of Diagnosis*