

record events—events that slip past the grips of conscious memory—are intact and functioning.³⁻⁵

Just as the pathologically amnesic patient refused to shake the doctor's hand a second time, a patient on Versed who is temporarily amnesic for a procedure during which he or she is uncomfortable might be subconsciously driven to behave antagonistically toward the doctor involved. Such patients have been reported in the literature. Though their conscious memory banks may be vacant after an event, implicit or subconscious channels can have a substantial effect on these patients, influencing their thoughts and dispositions, informing their behaviors.^{6,7}

The subtext to this discussion of the subconscious of amnesic patients is that taking Versed constitutes a tremendous act of trust on the part of the patient. Patients allow themselves to become powerless and vulnerable. They are in a state of diminished inhibition and judgment. And they are not likely to remember much, if anything, about their experiences while on Versed.

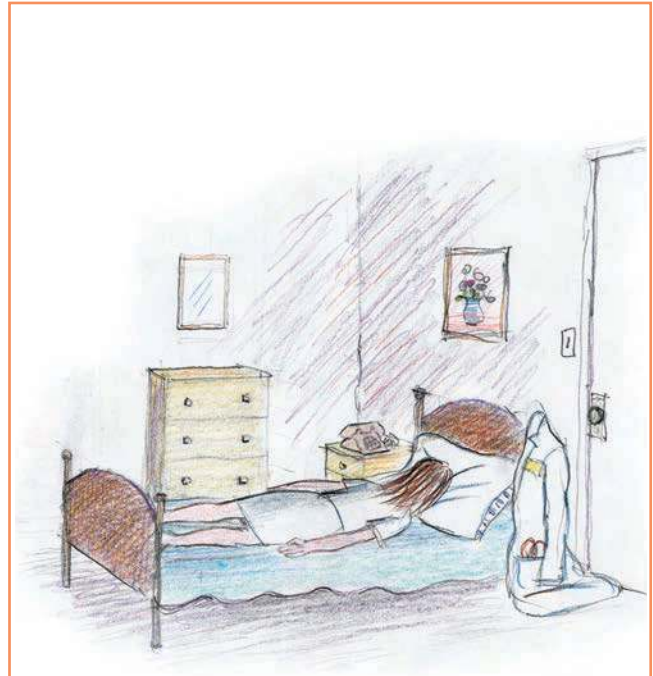
While Versed may indeed render patients strikingly vulnerable and potentially leave imprints invisible to the conscious mind, its utility in the clinical setting is undeniable, its effects clearly beneficial. Used properly, Versed can help to dissolve the tension and discomfort of hospital visits for all parties involved and contribute to the efficiency and ease of modern medicine.

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Desire

*To bed
I said
With lascivious sigh

With lust
For just
Some hours shuteye

Warm toes
Cold nose
And pillows piled high

To sleep
Dark deep
Until morning is nigh*

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