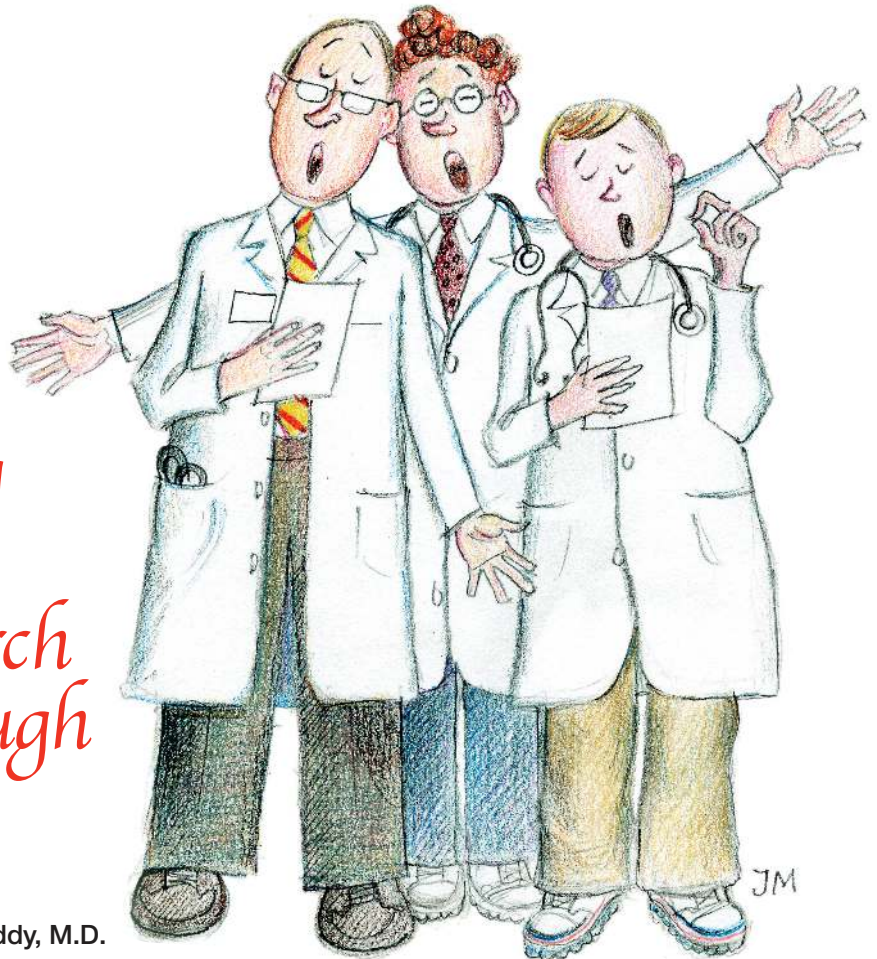


Sunday morning rounds when the Baptist Church Choir came through



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There I was on Sunday morning, with a group of residents outside the patient's room in one of our affiliated hospitals, trying to read the patient's chart and figure out how to tell the residents that the case had been mishandled and how to say it in way that wouldn't hurt their feelings too badly. Trying to figure out, too, how I was going to explain this mistake to our chairman (this really scared me), when here came the Baptist Church Choir, all two dozen of them, resplendent in their Sunday-best attire.

Bless you, brothers and sisters! (Choir director's hand gesture, blessing everyone.)

Me: Oh, yeah, hi! (Dismissive hand wave.)

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod, (Choir in full voice.)

Me: Now let's go over this case again. You tell me that the angel, I mean the patient, is a 24-year-old man, a known drug abuser, who came in during the night with osteomyelitis of the left tibia. What makes you think he has osteomyelitis?

With its crystal tide forever, flowing by the throne of God,

Me: You say that the throne, I mean the bone, was clearly

infected, as shown on X-ray and bone scan. Now, why did you start antibiotics right away?

Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river,

Me: You started antibiotics because you think he has an infection of the river, I mean the tibia? And it was important to get treatment started? But what did the cultures show? How did you know which antibiotics to use? What did the orthopedists say?

Gather with the saints at the river, that flows by the throne of God.

Me: O.K., guys and gals, here's what we'll do. We'll stop the antibiotics for the time being and call in the saints, I mean the orthopedists, for a throne, uh, a bone biopsy. Unfortunately, we'll have to temporarily discharge the patient and delay the bone biopsy for two weeks, since antibiotics have already been started. Then we'll restart the antibiotics and readjust them according to the cultures and sensitivities.

Bless you, brothers and sisters! (Choir director again blessing everyone.)

Me: Yeah, yeah!

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