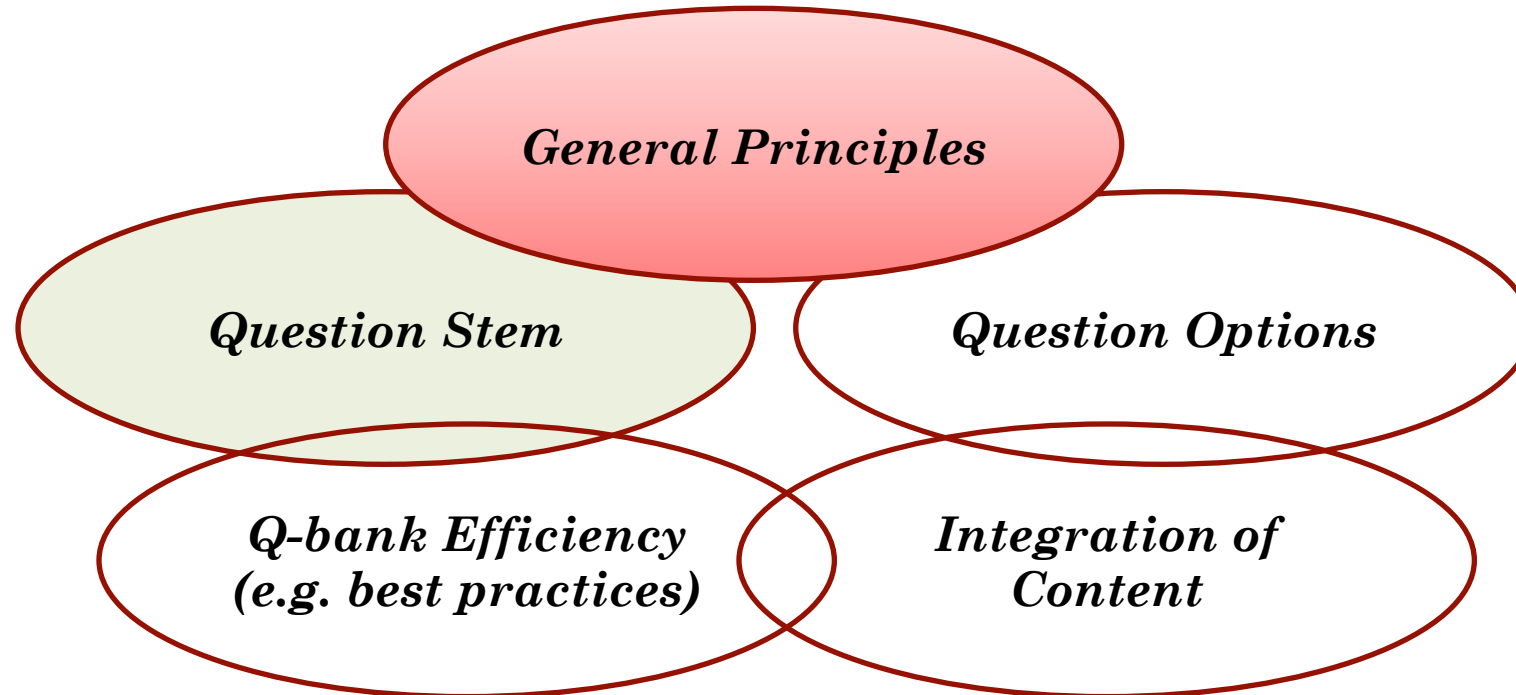


Overview



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the Question Stem

- **‘Four Sentences’**

1. *Demographic*
2. *Clinical Description*
3. *Physical Exam*
4. *Data*

*Teaching
Point*

*Throw You Off
The Scent*

the Question Stem

- **‘Four Sentences’**

1. *Demographic*
2. *Clinical Description*
3. *Physical Exam*
4. *Data*

Question-writer



...leaps of faith

the Question Stem

- 'Four Sentences'

1. *Demographic*
2. *Clinical Description*
3. *Physical Exam*
4. *Data*

Question-writer



...leaps of faith

Young male with

low back stiffness in AM

*Seronegative
Spondylarthropathy*

- *Psoriatic*
- *Ank Spond*
- *Reactive*
- *Enteropathic*

the Question Stem

- ‘Four Sentences’
 - *Accept the Question-Writer on Their Own Terms*
 - Use only their information: *No More, No Less*
 1. *Demographic*
 2. *Clinical Description*
 3. *Physical Exam*
 4. *Data*

the Question Stem

- ‘Four Sentences’
 - *Accept the Question-Writer on Their Own Terms*
 - Use only their information: *No More, No Less*

You cannot rewrite vignettes to fit your own mental images...

1. *Demographic*
2. *Clinical Description*
3. *Physical Exam*
4. *Data*

the Question Stem

- ‘Four Sentences’
 - *Accept the Question-Writer on Their Own Terms*
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57 y.o. presents with acute shortness of breath...

the Question Stem

- ‘Four Sentences’
 - *Accept the Question-Writer on Their Own Terms*
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57 y.o. presents with acute shortness of breath...

*...following a recent
viral illness*

*...PE reveals an extra
heard sound and rales*

*...PE a drop in systolic
pressure with inspiration*

*ABG reveals
7.32-50-23*

Question-writer



the Question Stem

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 - *Accept the Question-Writer on Their Own Terms*
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Positive Information:
What they tell us...



the Question Stem

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 - *Accept the Question-Writer on Their Own Terms*
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57 y.o. presents with acute shortness of breath...

...following a recent viral illness

...PE reveals an extra heard sound and rales

...PE a drop in systolic pressure with inspiration

ABG reveals 7.32-50-23

Question-writer

Positive Information:
What they tell us...



Negative Information:
*What they **don't** tell us...*

the Question Stem

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7.32-50-25*

*DCM
2° Bacterial PNA*

*ICM
AMI*

*Cardiac
Tamponade*

*Acute
Bronchospasm*

the Question Stem

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2° Bacterial PNA*

*ICM
AMI*

*Cardiac
Tamponade*

*Acute
Bronchospasm*

the Question Stem

- ‘Four Sentences’
 - *Accept the Story-Writer on Their Own Terms Even If It Isn’t A Perfect Story*
 - Use only their information: *No More, No Less*

57 y.o. presents with acute shortness of breath...

*...following a recent
viral illness*

*...PE reveals an extra
heard sound and rales*

*...PE a drop in systolic
pressure with inspiration*

*ABG reveals
7.32-50-25*

*DCM
2° Bacterial PNA*

*ICM
AMI*

*Cardiac
Tamponade*

*Acute
Bronchospasm*

...writes a story in medical shorthand

the Question Stem

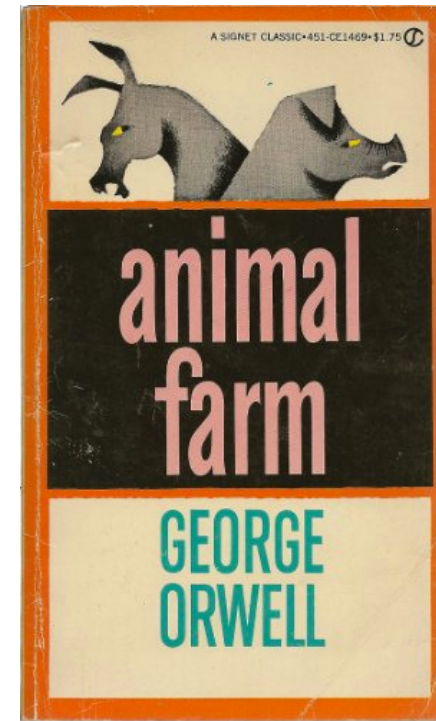
- Four Sentences: *All Sentences Are Not Created Equal*
 1. *Demographic*
 2. *Clinical Description*
 3. *Physical Exam*
 4. *Data*

the Question Stem

- Four Sentences: *All Sentences Are Not Created Equal*



1. *Demographic*
2. *Clinical Description*
3. *Physical Exam*
4. *Data*

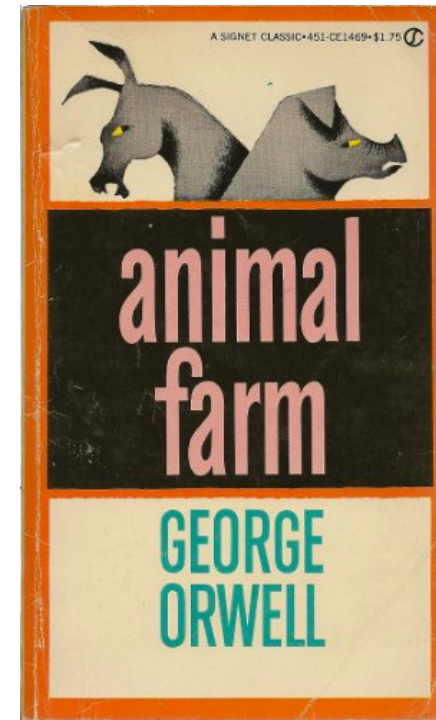


the Question Stem

- Four Sentences: *All Sentences Are Not Created Equal*



1. *Demographic*
2. *Clinical Description*
3. *Physical Exam*
4. *Data*



the Question Stem: *Data Matters*

- Four Sentences: *All Sentences Are Not Created Equal*

Data > *Physical Exam* > *Verbiage*



the Question Stem: *Data Matters*

Data > Physical Exam > Verbiage




Believe in Data

the Question Stem: *Data Matters*

Data > Physical Exam > Verbiage

Believe in Data




*Be Mindful of the
Physical Exam*



the Question Stem: *Data Matters*

Data > Physical Exam > Verbiage

Believe in Data



*Be Mindful of the
Physical Exam*



*Be Skeptical of
the Verbiage*



the Question Stem: *Data Matters*

Data > Physical Exam > Verbiage

the Question Stem: *Data Matters*

Data > Physical Exam > Verbiage

1. Data Doesn't Lie

K+ 6.2 meq/dL (nl 3.5-5.2)

the Question Stem: *Data Matters*

Data > Physical Exam > Verbiage

1. Data Doesn't Lie

K⁺ 6.2 meq/dL (nl 3.5-5.2)

Renal failure
Medications
Adrenal failure
Acidosis

the Question Stem: *Data Matters*

Data > Physical Exam > Verbiage

1. Data Doesn't Lie
- 2. Data = Diagnosis**

the Question Stem: *Data Matters*

Data > Physical Exam > Verbiage

1. Data Doesn't Lie
2. **Data = Diagnosis**

Calcium 11.2 (nl 8.5-10.5 meq/dL)

PTH 162 (nl 14-64 pg/ml)

the Question Stem: *Data Matters*

Data > Physical Exam > Verbiage

1. Data Doesn't Lie
2. **Data = Diagnosis**

Calcium 11.2 (nl 8.5-10.5 meq/dL)
PTH 162 (nl 14-64 pg/ml)

Primary HyperPTH

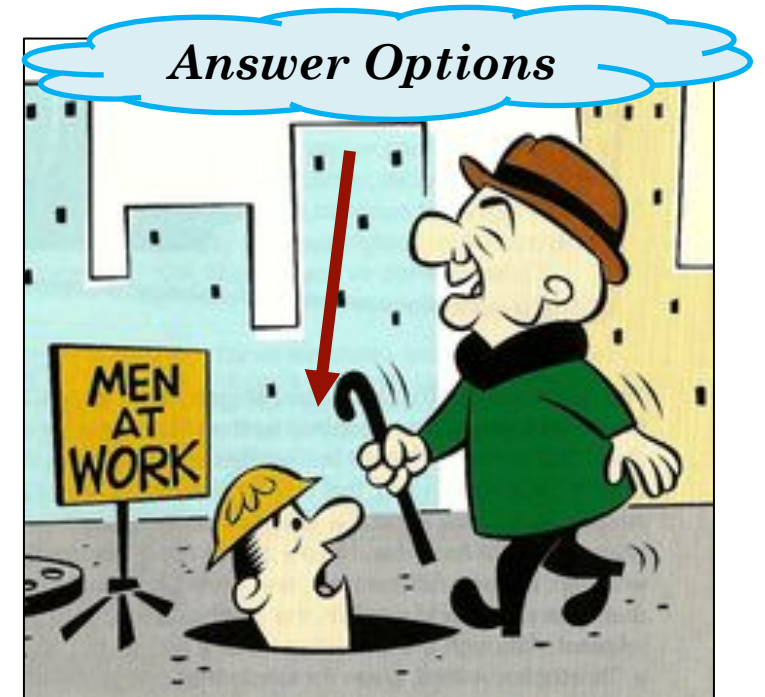
NBME Vignettes: Pearls, **Pitfalls** and Lessons Learned

the Diagnosis Matters

Data > Physical Exam > Verbiage

1. Data Doesn't Lie
2. **Data = Diagnosis**

Calcium 11.2 (nl 8.5-10.5 meq/dL)
PTH 162 (nl 14-64 pg/ml)



NBME Vignettes: Pearls, **Pitfalls** and Lessons Learned

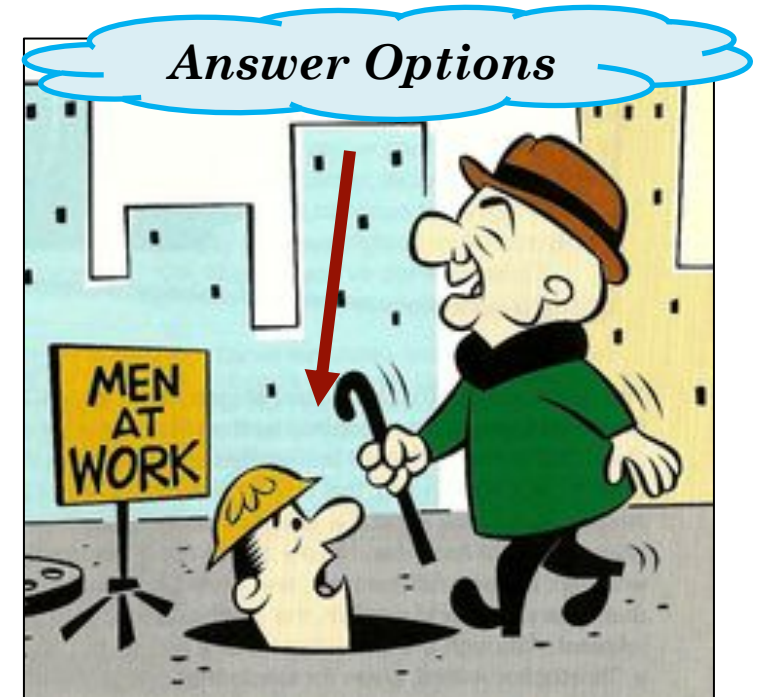
the Diagnosis Matters

Data > Physical Exam > Verbiage

1. Data Doesn't Lie
2. **Data = Diagnosis**

Calcium 11.2 (nl 8.5-10.5 meq/dL)
PTH 162 (nl 14-64 pg/ml)

Once you make the diagnosis, stick with it...



NBME Vignettes: Pearls, Pitfalls and Lessons Learned



Data > Physical Exam > Verbiage

The patient is a 65 y.o. smoker who presents with cough, sputum production and weight loss.

Calcium 11.2 (nl 8.5-10.5 meq/dL)

PTH 162 (nl 14-64 pg/ml)

Data > Physical Exam > Verbiage

The patient is a 65 y.o. **smoker** who presents with cough, sputum production and **weight loss**.

Calcium 11.2 (nl 8.5-10.5 meq/dL)
PTH 162 (nl 14-64 pg/ml)



*Traps are woven
into every question*

Data > Physical Exam > Verbiage

The patient is a 65 y.o. **smoker** who presents with cough, sputum production and **weight loss**.

Calcium 11.2 (nl 8.5-10.5 meq/dL)

PTH 162 (nl 14-64 pg/ml)

Select the most likely finding upon further evaluation?

1. Non-caseating granulomas
2. Cavitating nodule on CXR
3. Phosphaturia
4. Chronic kidney disease

Data > Physical Exam > Verbiage

The patient is a 65 y.o. *smoker* who presents with cough, sputum production and *weight loss*.

Data Matters

**Calcium 11.2 (nl 8.5-10.5 meq/dL)
PTH 162 (nl 14-64 pg/ml)**

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Data > Physical Exam > Verbiage

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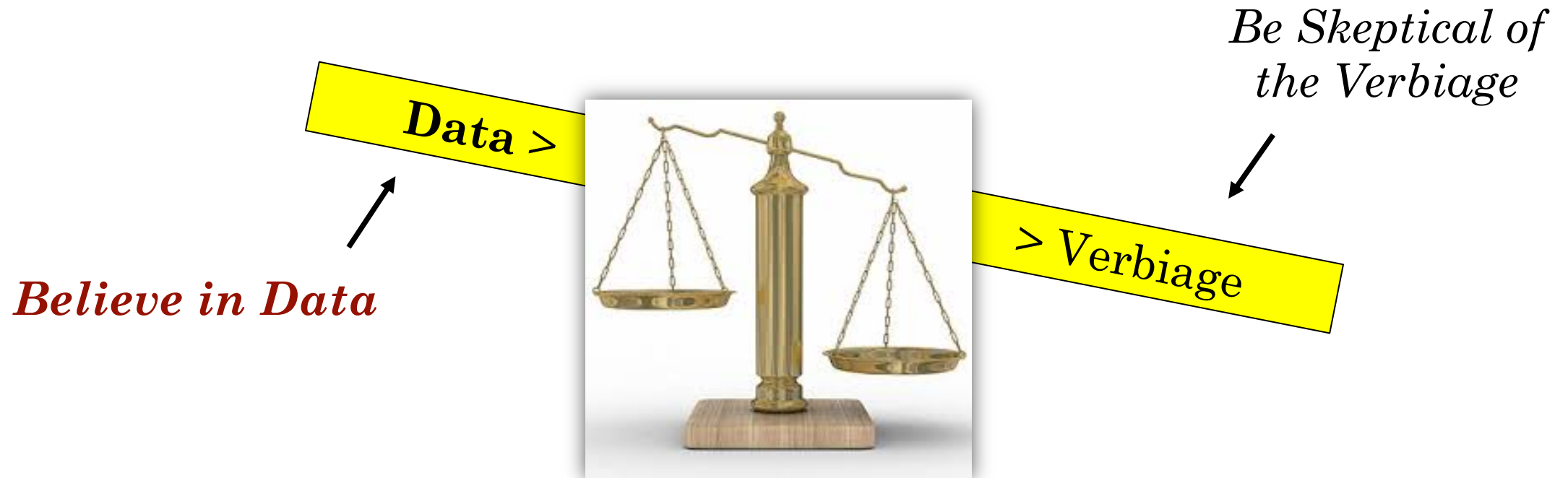
Data Matters

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2. Cavitating nodule on CXR
- 3. Phosphaturia**
4. Chronic kidney disease

NBME Vignettes: Pearls, Pitfalls and Lessons Learned



the Question Stem: *Verbiage...Tread Cautiously*

Data > Physical Exam > **Verbiage**

Believe in Data

*Be Mindful of the
Physical Exam*

*Be Skeptical of
the Verbiage*

the Question Stem: *Verbiage...Tread Cautiously*

Data > Physical Exam > **Verbiage**

the Question Stem: *Verbiage...Tread Cautiously*

Data > Physical Exam > **Verbiage**

Clinical Demographics

(e.g. HIV/SCD/Heroin)

the Question Stem: *Verbiage...Tread Cautiously*

Data > Physical Exam > **Verbiage**

Clinical Demographics

(e.g. HIV/SCD/Heroin)

Frothy urine and edema.

24 hr urine collection = **4 gms/dL of protein**

FSGS

the Question Stem: *Verbiage...Tread Cautiously*

Data > Physical Exam > **Verbiage**

Clinical Demographics

Tomfoolery

the Question Stem: *Verbiage...Tread Cautiously*

Data > Physical Exam > **Verbiage**

Clinical Demographics

Tomfoolery

The patient is a 65 y.o. smoker who presents with cough, sputum production and weight loss.

the Question Stem: *the Physical Exam*

Data > Physical Exam > Verbiage

Believe in Data



*Be Mindful of the
Physical Exam*



*Be Skeptical of
the Verbiage*



Data > **Physical Exam** > Verbiage



Abnormal

Normal

Data > **Physical Exam** > Verbiage

Abnormal

Normal

Cor: crescendo-decrescendo systolic M at RUSB

→ ***aortic stenosis*** derivatives

Positive Information:
What they tell us...

Data > **Physical Exam** > Verbiage

Abnormal

Normal

Pulm: dullness to percussion + decreased BS

→ *pleural effusion* derivatives

Positive Information:
What they tell us...

Data > **Physical Exam** > Verbiage

Abnormal

Normal

No S3 or Rales

Negative Information:
*What they **don't** tell us...*

Excludes diagnoses

Data > **Physical Exam** > Verbiage

Abnormal

Normal

2+ peripheral edema
No JVD

Accept the Question-writer on their terms...

Excludes diagnoses

Data > **Physical Exam** > Verbiage

Abnormal

Normal

Accept the Question-writer on their terms...

*Peripheral edema **without JVD** is a
typical description for portal HTN
(or a dihydropyridine CCB)*

2+ peripheral edema
No JVD

Excludes diagnoses

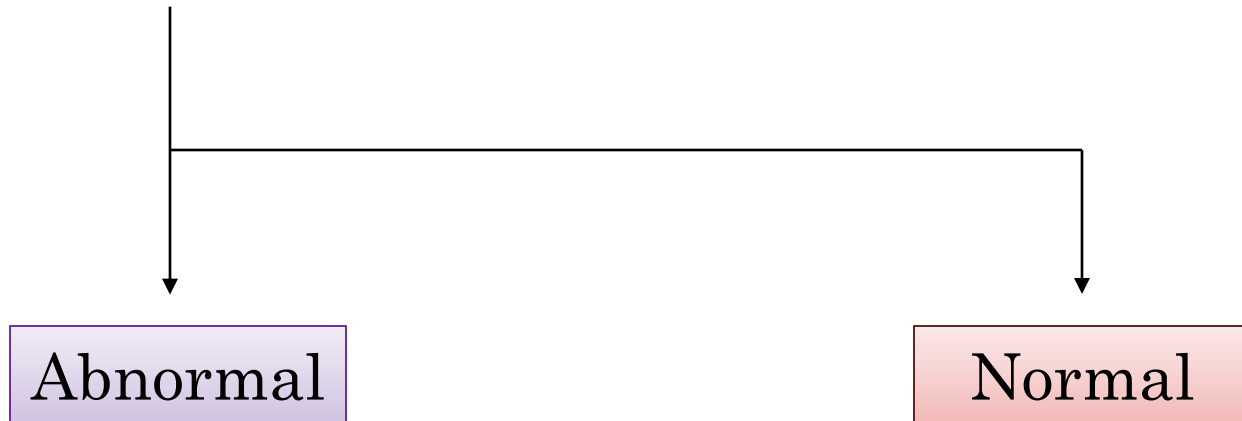
the Question Stem

Data > Physical Exam abnormal, normal > Verbiage Demographic, Tomfoolery



the Question Stem

Data > Physical Exam abnormal, normal > Verbiage Demographic, Tomfoolery



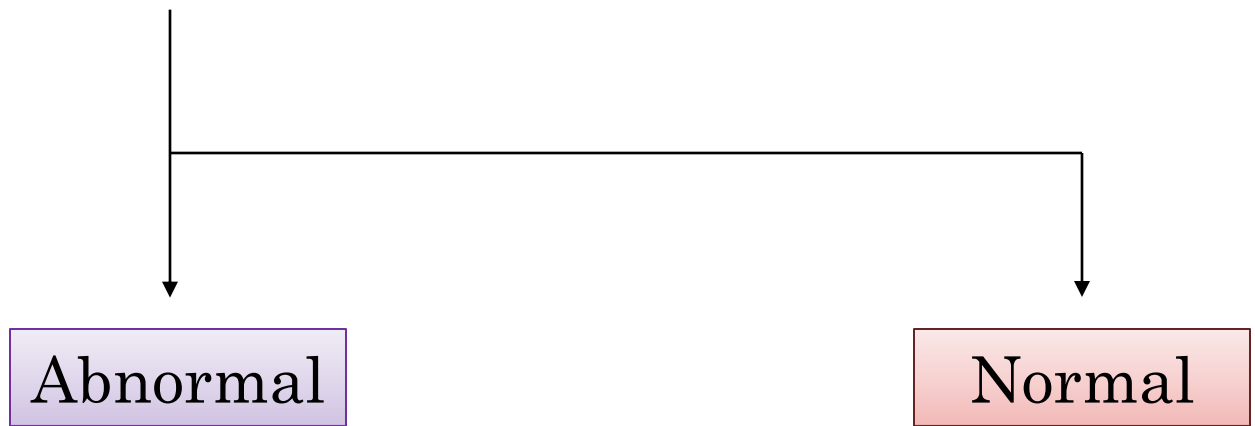
BUN/Cr = 40/4.0

Normal Reference Values

- BUN 7-18 mg/dL
- Cr 0.6-1.2 mg/dL

the Question Stem

Data > Physical Exam abnormal, normal > Verbiage Demographic, Tomfoolery



BUN/Cr = 40/4.0

Intrinsic renal disease

Excludes prerenal azotemia (hypoperfusion)

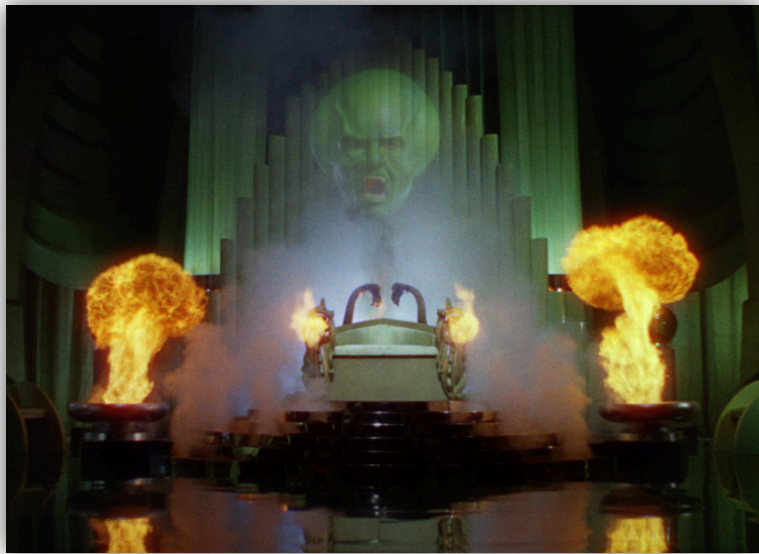
NBME Vignettes: **Pearls**, Pitfalls and Lessons Learned

Data abnormal, normal > **Physical Exam** abnormal, normal > **Verbiage** Demographic, Tomfoolery



NBME Vignettes: **Pearls**, Pitfalls and Lessons Learned

Data_{abnormal, normal} > Physical Exam_{abnormal, normal} > Verbiage_{Demographic, Tomfoolery}



NBME Vignettes: **Pearls**, Pitfalls and Lessons Learned

Data_{abnormal, normal} > Physical Exam_{abnormal, normal} > Verbiage_{Demographic, Tomfoolery}



NBME Vignettes: **Pearls**, Pitfalls and Lessons Learned

Data_{abnormal, normal} > Physical Exam_{abnormal, normal} > Verbiage_{Demographic, Tomfoolery}

Pathology is King of the Data



NBME Vignettes: **Pearls**, Pitfalls and Lessons Learned

Data_{abnormal, normal} > Physical Exam_{abnormal, normal} > Verbiage_{Demographic, Tomfoolery}

Pathology is King of the Data



*...biopsy reveals **Congo red** staining with **apple green** birefringence...*

NBME Vignettes: **Pearls**, Pitfalls and Lessons Learned

Data abnormal, normal > Physical Exam abnormal, normal > Verbiage Demographic, Tomfoolery

Pathology is King of the Data



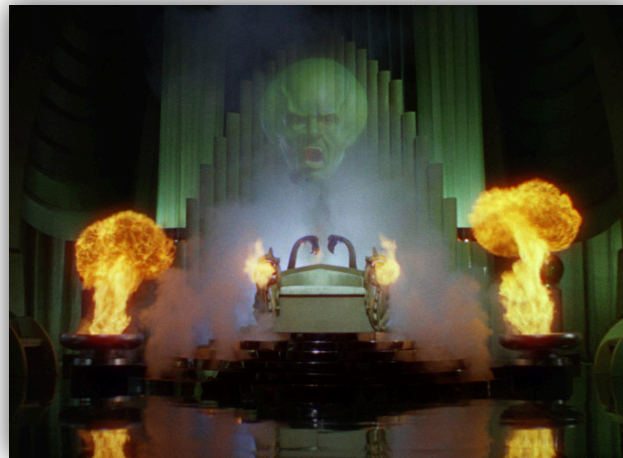
The patient has amyloidosis

*...biopsy reveals **Congo red** staining with **apple green** birefringence...*

NBME Vignettes: **Pearls**, Pitfalls and Lessons Learned

Data_{abnormal, normal} > Physical Exam_{abnormal, normal} > Verbiage_{Demographic, Tomfoolery}

Pathology is King of the Data



the Question Stem

- Four Sentences: *All Sentences Are Not Created Equal*
- **Data** is **Medical Shorthand**
 - *It's a real efficient way for the Question-writer to describe their adventure*

Data > *Physical Exam* > *Verbiage*



the Question Stem

- Four Sentences: *All Sentences Are Not Created Equal*
- Data is Medical Shorthand
 - *It's a real efficient way for the Question-writer to describe their adventure*
- **Verbiage**
 - *Describes important demographics/clinical information*
 - *An efficient way for **Question-writers to sow discord***



*Data > Physical Exam > **Verbiage***

the Question Stem

Data > Physical Exam > Verbiage

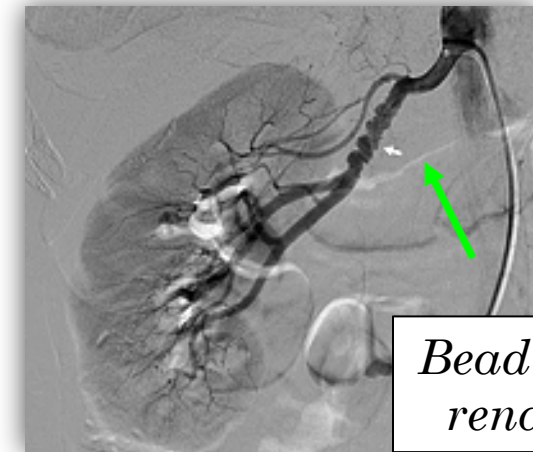
35 year old woman with severe hypertension.

PE: 200/110 with an **abdominal bruit** present in the periumbilical region.

Data: Renal angiogram shown

Select the most likely diagnosis?

- A. Takayasu arteritis
- B. Polyarteritis nodosa
- C. **Fibromuscular dysplasia**
- D. Renal artery stenosis



Beading of the renal artery

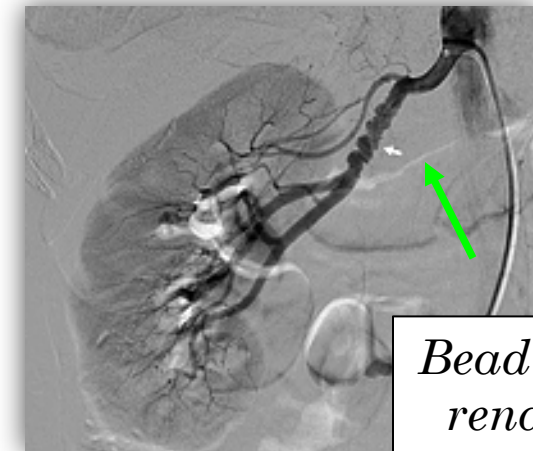
the Question Stem

Data > Physical Exam > Verbiage

35 year old **Asian** woman with **severe hypertension**.
PE: **200/110** with an **abdominal bruit** present in the periumbilical region.
Data: Renal angiogram shown

Select the most likely diagnosis?

- ✘ A. **Takayasu arteritis**
- B. Polyarteritis nodosa
- C. ~~Fibromuscular dysplasia~~
- D. Renal artery stenosis



Beading of the renal artery

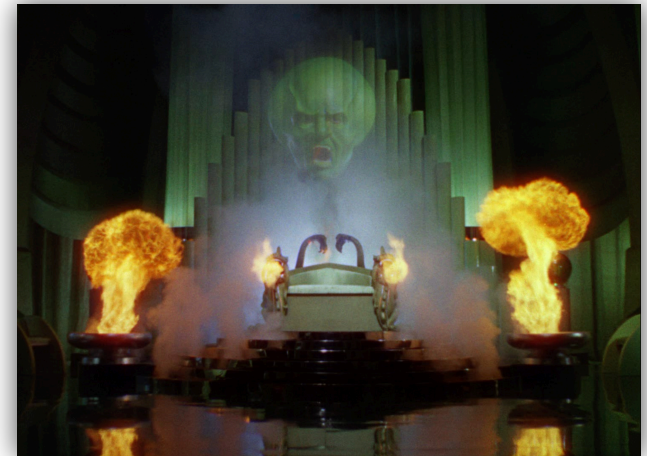
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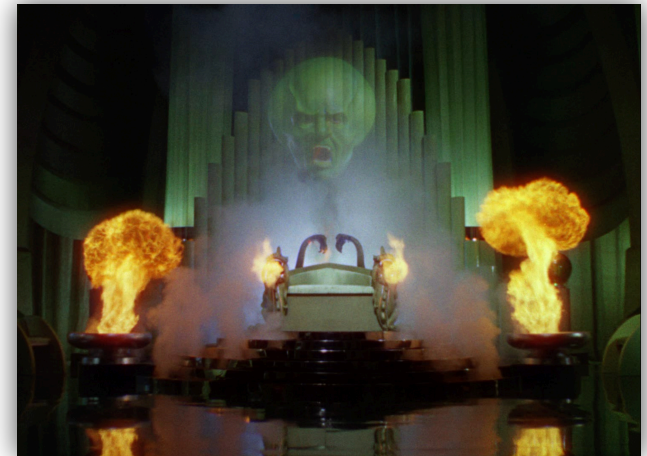
the Question Stem

Data > Physical Exam > Verbiage

35 year old **Asian** woman with severe hypertension.
PE: 200/110 with an abdominal bruit present in the periumbilical region.
Data: Renal angiogram shown

Don't get married to one word (phrase or sentence)...

...it never works out well



the Question Stem

- ‘Four Sentences’
 - Accept the Question-Writer on Their Terms (*they are telling a story*)
 - Use only their information: *No More, No Less*
 - Don’t make stuff up: *Derivative of Derivatives*
- All Sentences Are **Not** Created Equal
 - Data: medical shorthand for the story-teller (e.g. *question-writer*)
 - Pathology is King
 - Diagnoses matter
 - Physical Exam: weigh both the abnormal and the normal
 - *Negative findings matter*
 - Verbiage: clinical demographic or Tomfoolery
 - *Don’t get married to one sentence*

the Question Options



Select the most likely diagnosis?

- A. Takayasu arteritis
- B. Polyarteritis nodosa
- C. **Fibromuscular dysplasia**
- D. Renal artery stenosis

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