

FM REVIEW 2014 24COMMENTS

COMMENTS TO EDITOR: Reviewers liked this poem, as do I. It grapples with the knowledge that physicians possess about their patients in advance of the patients' own awareness. It expresses from the patient's perspective how vulnerable it feels to know that your physician knows more about you in some ways than you know about yourself. The reviewers suggest minor revisions which I do not feel strongly about, but which I would like the author to consider.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR: This is an affecting poem that captures well the anxiety and vulnerability of the patient who realizes his/her body contains secrets initially only accessible to the physician and his/her imaging techniques. Each reviewer made small suggestions for revision. As is often the case, they are somewhat contradictory. Reviewer 1 suggests you eliminate the first 24 lines. Reviewer 2 likes the incantatory quality of the listing of visualizing tools! Please take a second look and see which set of suggestions is closer to your sense of the poem. Further, Reviewer 2 suggests that you bring this sense of physician foreknowledge to the start of the poem; Reviewer 1 suggests you add a couple of lines about the physician at the end of the poem. Again, please play with these ideas to see whether, in your judgment, they can be implemented in a way that enhances the poem. Just as a way of stimulating your thinking, I've also attached a revision that offers one possibility for incorporating these recommendations. Use it as a jumping off point.

COMMENTS TO EDITOR II: I recommend acceptance of this poem. The author has made several changes that improve the clarity of the poem as well as its emotional impact. I think all readers will be able to connect to this issue of the doctor's ability to "know" the secrets of the patient, and the trust/dependence in the patient that this engenders.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR II: Thank you for your revisions. In my read, they focus and enhance the emotion of the poem. This exploration of the "foreknowledge" of the physician and the inherent dependence of the patient on this knowledge is a dilemma that every doctor and patient will relate to. I find the last lines particularly poignant. Imaging technology allows the physician to see the patient in more refined detail than ever – but are we ever truly seen? The question – appropriately – remains unanswered.