

# Unexpected

Veranja Liyanapathirana

He came in for a urethral job  
TURP is what the doctor said  
Nothing serious  
He sought treatment because his son insisted  
“What is it with getting up twice at night?”  
“No Thaththa,<sup>1</sup> it'll be a safe surgery”  
“OK Putha,<sup>2</sup> you know the best”  
For he was proud that his son was a nurse

The day dawned; he came to the ward,  
With son and wife, and daughter to be  
The harried young intern  
Gave an uninterested look  
“Routine admission, nothing much”  
“BP normal, pulse regular, heart in dual rhythm”  
“DT form filled, theatre list made”  
Anaesthetist came for the premed  
“Healthy gentleman, nothing to worry”  
“Is there a slight murmur?”  
“No, can't be, the HO would have heard”  
Surgery goes well,  
Recovery uneventful,  
Bladder irrigation continued uneventfully.  
His son the nurse and daughter to be the nurse  
Were always there anyway, most of the  
nurses were their friends  
So things moved smoothly

Post op day 3  
Fever spike  
“Nothing to worry, just a UTI,  
Change the antibiotic,  
Send urine for culture”  
The urologist said  
A week went by,  
Fever continued to spike  
His son the nurse spoke to the urologist  
“What can it be, Sir?”  
“Nothing to worry, just a UTI”  
“But the culture had no growth”  
“He was on prophylactic antibiotics”  
Day 10 came, He developed seizures,  
“What can it be?”  
“DVT with emboli shooting”

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“Let's do a CT”  
“CT normal”  
“Get a duplex of lower limb”  
“Also normal”  
Fever continues  
Poor man, felt so unwell  
Just by chance  
Another intern kept the steth on his chest  
“Oh my god, the murmur of MR”  
“Take blood cultures”  
“Do CRP”  
“Get an Echo done”

On the way to the echo room, his left side goes numb  
“Oscillatory vegetation in mitral valve”  
“Start Pen and Gen”  
Next day comes,  
“MRSA isolated from blood cultures”  
The dreaded report  
Now what to give?  
“Call the microbiologist”  
“It has usually got a bad prognosis”  
“Call the cardiologist”  
Arguments, consultations  
In the midst of it,  
His son looks helpless  
“Why did I push Thaththa to undergo surgery?”

The father looks on  
Oblivious to the commotion  
But deep within  
He knows  
That something's not right  
“My son's wedding  
My wife's future”  
He thinks.....

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<sup>1</sup>Father

<sup>2</sup>Son